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Govt shuts disaster mine, MP urges restraint

A lot of families depend on this mine," he said, asserting that closing it will greatly affect the daily needs of the people there. The government needs to consider this need and think of improving the mine rather than shutting it down

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE government has shut down the small-scale gold mine at Ikinabushu in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region which collapsed amid heavy rains, killing 22 people.

Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde issued the directive yesterday, saying that the operators ought to ensure that they conduct their operations legally and safely.

Presenting condolences from President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the site, the minister expressed sorrow on the incident, affirming that the government will lay greater emphasis on a conducive environ-



DISASTER LOOMS: You may decide against believing your eyes but this is, indeed, a scene from Dar es Salaam's much-frequented Mabibo mixed-goods market - as captured yesterday. Need we say more for the authorities concerned to chip in with immediate action to forestall a catastrophe? Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

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JNHPP first power plant switching on tomorrow

The JNHPP dam has nine plants producing 235MW each, geared to produce 2,115MW of electricity when fully operational and in optimal reservoir dam condition, ending power blues for the current level of consumer demand, experts say

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ONE power plant at the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) with capacity to generate 235 megawatts added into the national grid is tomorrow expected to be switched on the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) has announced.

Newton Livingstone, a manager at the Chalinze power cooling station, said at the weekend that second phase of preparations have started to receive electricity from JNHPP in connecting the new 400kV cooling station with the 220kV line stretching from Luguruni in Dar es Salaam to Morogoro.

The work will affect some areas served by the national grid from January 16 to 19, experiencing power cuts as connecting with JNHPP at the Chalinze station is conducted, he said.

After testing the connection, the 235MW of power will be fed into the national grid through the line that was being repeatedly shed of power during the past month, and is also the line where power was cut on Saturday, he explained

The connection exercise started on Saturday and is expected to be completed next Sunday, with repeated power cuts as the

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TFF marketing manager joins other CECAFA officials in playing key roles at AFCON

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Simba SC head coach issues stern warning to players

Maize cargo barred at Malawi border 'safe from lethal virus'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A MAIZE consignment of up to 40 tonnes from Tanzania held by Malawian authorities at the Songwe-Kasumu border post over suspected viral contamination has

been found to be safe, regulators assert

Prof Joseph Ndunguru, the director of the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA), which ran an extensive laboratory analysis on the consignment issued a regulatory notice declaring

the grain consignment to be free from 'maize lethal necrosis,' a virus simply known as MLN.

In addition to issuing a clean bill of health for the grain consignment, the notice affirmed that "there are no traces of maize lethal necrosis anywhere in Tanzania

where the staple crop is grown." Authorities at the Nkhata Bay port district of Malawi withdrew over 40 tons of maize which was being transported to Malawi in what was described as a measure

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Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Araman Benoit (R) and Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde (in deep-blue T-shirt and cap), who is Dodoma Urban legislator, symbolically present gas cylinders and cooking stoves to 500 Dodoma city food vendors yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TPA set to start work on new fuel cargo terminal

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Maize cargo barred at Malawi border 'is safe from lethal virus'

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to prevent the spread of a devastating viral infection on the crop

An alert was recently raised over MLN by the country's Ministry of Agriculture through its agricultural research services department, cautioning that MLN has no treatment. It is transmitted by planting maize grain infected with the virus, causing 100 percent yield loss. The ministry then went ahead and banned grain imports from Kenya and Tanzania.

TPHPA decided to investigate the matter, starting with the consignment held at the border, affirming it is safe from MLN, and then proceeded to regional maize purchasing centres for similar tests, and was satisfied that there are no such crop diseases, he said.

After releasing its report, TPHPA dispatched it to Malawian authorities "in an effort to clear the air over misinformation regarding Tanzanian grain being exported to Lilongwe," he said.

The director all the same maintained the ban on importation of soya beans and maize seeds from Malawi as authorities here seek to "shield the country from a number of suspected

crop diseases and infections," he stated.

Crop traders must adhere to the directives as it has been confirmed that soya and maize seeds from Malawi are infected with the 'tobacco ringspot virus' which could threaten beans and grain production if imported.

Some of the plant viral infections have been discovered to be the result of genetically modified (GM) crops that Tanzania prohibits, he ventured to say, in the face of conflicting reports from Malawi on its stance regarding maize from Tanzania.

While the ban was still being exercised, Charles Kalemba, the country's commissioner for Disaster Management Affairs said Malawi would still import maize flour from Tanzania.

He stated that the grain flour from Tanzania will be used by up to 4.4m Malawians facing acute food shortage, affirming that milled maize was safer than actual seeds.

Paul Turnbull, the World Food Programme country director for Malawi, said the agency is milling 30,000 tonnes of maize in Tanzania to supply Malawi with food relief, as the country suffers food shortages following last year's hurricane Freddy disaster.



Majaba Magana (with microphone), Azania Bank Limited's public relations manager, briefs Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi late last week on the bank's products and services. It was at the 60th Zanzibar Revolution anniversary trade fair held at Zanzibar's Dimani-Fumba grounds. Photo: Zanzibar State House

JNHPP first power plant switching on tomorrow

FROM PAGE 1

work continues, he said, noting that all areas along the 220 kilovolt line from Luguruni to Morogoro will be affected by disconnection while work on connecting JNHPP power at the 400kV Chalinze station is finalised.

The shutdown of this line will affect the capacity of electricity transmission and the quality of

electricity for Coast and Dar es Salaam regions and for these reasons the company will have to reduce the use of electricity for customers to match the capacity of the transmission lines and be sure of quality of electricity," it said.

Chalinze cooling station will be hosting several electricity transmission lines in the near future as JNHPP power is added to the station to boost capacity of electric-

ity transmission to the regions, he said.

It said that the electricity will be transported to various parts of the country to increase the level of electricity which will eliminate the energy problem in the country.

The JNHPP dam has nine plants producing 235MW each, geared to produce 2,115MW of electricity when fully operational and in

optimal reservoir dam condition, ending power blues for the current level of consumer demand, experts say.

Arab Contractors, an Egypt firm, in collaboration with their Elsewedy compatriots, are in the final stages of building the water holding dam. The 6.6trn/- construction project had passed 92 percent since it was launched in 2018.

It was earlier projected to take 42 months but the Covid-19 global pandemic and other inconveniences delayed the work, while Deputy Prime Minister Doto Biteko noted at the end of the year that the contractor has been paid 85 percent of the money to implement the project and the government expected that it will be completed soon.



Said Shaib Mussa (2nd-L), Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry deputy permanent secretary, pictured in Zanzibar yesterday attending a three-day meeting of the Tanzania-Angola joint permanent commission. He is with the Director of Regional Cooperation in Angola's Foreign Affairs ministry (2nd-R); Tanzania's Ambassador currently accredited to Zambia and Angola, Lt Gen Mathew Edward Mkingule (L); and Angola's Ambassador to Tanzania, Sandro de Oliveira. Photo: Foreign Affairs ministry

Assoumani widely expected to win Comoros election

MORONI

VOTING was underway in Comoros yesterday in an election widely expected to hand a fourth five-year term to President Azali Assoumani, who faces five opponents in a vote some opposition leaders have boycotted.

The polls opened across the Indian Ocean archipelago at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) for the 338,940 registered voters out of its 800,000 population. Voting ends at 6 p.m.

Comoros has experienced around

20 coups or attempted coups since winning independence from France in 1975 and is a major source of irregular migration to the nearby French island of Mayotte.

Some opposition leaders have called for a boycott, accusing the election commission of favouring the ruling party. The commission denies this, saying the process will be transparent.

"I am delighted with this anchoring of democracy in our country," Assoumani told reporters after voting in his home town of Mitsoudjé,

adding that he hoped for victory in the first round.

The former army officer first came to power in a coup in 1999. He has since won three elections and has served as the chair of the African Union for the past year.

He won the 2019 election with 60 percent of the vote, breaching the 50 percent mark required to avoid a run-off. Critics say since then his government has cracked down on dissent, an accusation it denies.

Assoumani's opponents include a former interior minister and Salim

Issa, a medical doctor and flagbearer for Juwa, former president Ahmed Abdallah Sambi's party.

"We welcome the conduct of the vote. We hope that everything will continue calmly," Issa wrote on social media from Fombouni, his hometown in the south of the Comoros.

Sambi is now behind bars after being sentenced to life in prison in 2022 for high treason related to accusations of corruption. Political protests have been repeatedly banned for security reasons.

Comoros changed its constitution in June 2018 to remove a requirement that the presidency rotate among its three main islands every five years. This allowed Assoumani to seek re-election.

The opposition leaders calling for a boycott and their supporters have wanted the armed forces barred from involvement in the elections and the unconditional release of Sambi and other political prisoners.

Provisional results are expected on Friday, according to the election commission.

Govt shuts disaster mine, MP appeals for restraint

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ment for miners to operate, meanwhile as adhering to the rules and set regulations is vital.

He urged small-scale miners in the area to form a group and submit a proposal to the regulatory authorities to obtain a license.

Faustine Mtitu, acting regional commander of the Fire and Rescue Force, said that rescue operations have been completed after the team reached the bottom of the patch in which the miners were retrieved.

Search and rescue work started on Saturday as soon as accident information was heard and went on until early yesterday, taking out four bodies remaining in the pit, he said.

Bariadi MP Kundo Mathew asked the government to let the mine continue operations and improve facilities, while allowing people to seek out a living there.

"A lot of families depend on this mine," he said, asserting that closing it will greatly affect the daily needs of the people there. The government needs to consider this need and think of improving the mine rather than shutting it down," he appealed.

Procedures for relatives to identify the bodies were soon started at Somanda Hospital where the MP moved to cover costs of taking the deceased to their home places for burial arrangements.

"After receiving this information I suspended my tour to join the residents in this difficult moment," he told the gathering.

TPA set to start work on new fuel terminal

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A two-year project for the construction of a single receiving terminal (SRT) in Kigamboni District is soon expected to commence, to serve as a storage and distribution centre of fuel to major oil transporting companies.

Mrisho Selemani, the Dar es Salaam port director, said the new facility was being built to reduce time used by vessels when offloading fuel, an overview issued yesterday at a media

tour organised to witness various projects executed at the port.

Dar port is the main gateway to Malawi, Zambia, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and DRC, with the work being pursued in the wake of a briefing by Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) director general Plasduce Mbossa last week, when outlining TPA's strategic plans.

Procurement procedures are done and the contractor will start work anytime soon, he

said, noting that completion of the project will enable large vessels of 100,000 metric tonnes capacity to offload fuel within 48 hours.

SRT initial project implementation has started, meanwhile as during project implementation, cargo vessels will be pumping fuel at TPA storage tanks, with other firms obtaining the cargo from that point. The SRT project will enable the port to reduce unnecessary costs including demurrage charges on vessels opera-

tors as they wait to offload fuel, he stated.

Available storage tanks operated by oil transporters are inadequate due to increased demand, with more vehicles wanting to dock, he stated, thus the move to build a new facility. When the project is over it will be used by vessels docking at the port, he stated.

There is an increase in demand for fuel in Uganda and other transit trade destinations, as 60 percent of fuel offloaded at the port is

meant for transit, with the new initiative being part of implementation of the Dar es Salaam maritime gateway project.

Under the project increased depth and width of berths is being undertaken, from seven-metres to 14.5 metres, such that vessels of 200 metres long can dock at berths, meanwhile as TPA is expanding the vessels gateway, easing the way for big vessels to enter the port gate, he added.

Villages surrounding Serengeti get projects worth 67 billion/-

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SERENGETI National Park (SENAPA) is implementing conservation projects worth 67bn/- in all the villages surrounding it to help resident get actively engaged in protection of its wildlife and natural resources.

"This new development in conservation seems to be paying dividends because cases of poaching and illegal harvesting of resources have significantly dropped," said Moronda Moronda, Assistant Commissioner of Conservation at SENAPA.

According to Moronda, the participatory approach in conservation not only reduces wildlife poaching and illegal logging but also sees various development projects mushrooming in the villages surrounding the expansive park.

"Local residents now come up with their own development initiatives then the trustees of the Tanzania National Parks, in conjunction with international agencies who are partners in conservation, make the villagers' dreams come true through funding and supervision of the projects," he said.

Speaking at Fort Ikoma Station,

at the weekend, Moronda said that there are 35 major development projects being undertaken in the five districts that directly or indirectly border the SENAPA, namely Tarime, Bariadi, Bunda, Itilima and Serengeti.

"The projects include health, education, water and sanitation as well as infrastructure development," said Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) conservation officer Robert Masobeji, who is in charge of Community Outreach Department.

Implemented under the Serengeti Ecosystem Development and Conservation Project (SEDCP) to the tune of 24.34 million euros, the community projects are being financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and the German Development Bank (KfW). "It is encouraging to see that the villagers realize the importance of conservation efforts because they are now benefiting from the initiatives," said Ally Ligalawike, acting Serengeti District Executive Director.

Ligalawike expressed appreciation to the management of the national park for assisting the government in speeding up develop-



Public Service Social Security Fund director general Hosea Kashimba (C) pictured at the weekend attending to a member of the fund at the 10th Zanzibar International Trade Fair in progress at Unguja's Nyamanzi grounds. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ment projects in rural areas.

Among the projects valued at 67.4bn/- include Rehabilitation of Rural Infrastructure in Serengeti District (SDC) Output 2 which involves the improvement of the 13 kilometers long Park Nyigoti -Nyichoka feeder road, the construction

of Tabora B' bridge along the Bisarara-Nyamakendo road and the Tamkeri Bridge on the Mbali-bali-Machochwe road.

Other projects currently implemented under the Serengeti Ecosystem Development and Conservation Project in Mara Region include the

construction of teachers' quarters at Kazi and Kebosongo Primary Schools.

There is also construction of two classrooms at Kisangura Primary School as well as a modern dormitory for girl at Manchira Secondary School and a dispensary at Bokore Village.

Speakers laud banks for contribution to development

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

SPEAKER of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson and her Zanzibar counterpart Zubeir Ali Maulid have hailed the increasing contribution of financial sector in implementation of various development endeavours.

The two leaders said that apart from facilitating implementation of various projects and business-

es, the financial sector, including banks, play a big role in supporting improvement of social services such as education, health, water and many others.

The two leaders spoke at a dinner gala after the completion of a sports bonanza involving NMB staff teams and Members of Parliament which took place on Thursday as part of celebrations of the 60th anniversary Zanzibar Revolu-

tion.

In her remarks Dr Ackson commended NMB bank for its major contribution in the country's development.

She said the bank continues to play a critical role in national building efforts both in Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland by supporting various sectors and many productive initiatives.

She commended the bank for its

effective use of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) through which it has supported the government in addressing challenges hindering progress in education, healthcare, disaster management and the environment.

"Indeed, we see your contribution, we have been witnessing you donating desks, roofing materials, medical supplies and classroom construction from your profits that you allocate to give back to the community," she said.

She however asked the bank to consider participating in the construction of sports arenas to support the government's efforts in campaigns meant to encourage exercise.

Speaker Maulid admitted that the contribution of NMB bank to the nation's development reflects the magnitude and stability of the institution.

He emphasized the importance of the bank maintaining collaboration with both governments as doing so is one way to maintain and promote the

union as well as stimulate development.

Earlier, NMB chief finance officer Juma Kimori thanked Zanzibar House of Representatives for choosing the bank for collaboration which made the sports bonanza a success.

"I am very pleased with the type of collaboration that exists between the bank and the Tanzanian Parliament as well as the House of Representatives. We have done great things together," he said.



ADVOCATES, PATENT AND TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES PUBLIC AND COMMISSIONERS OF OATHS

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are advocates of Paje Beach Resort Limited t/a Serenity Villas ("our Client")

We refer to the public notice by ACCURATE RECOVERY & AUCTION LIMITED regarding sale of Hotel Beach Villa along Paje Beach property of Paje Beach Resort Limited t/a Serenity Villas. ("the Property")

The Public is notified as under, that:-

- Our Client has pending court case against Equity Bank Tanzania Limited ("Equity"), namely Commercial Case No. 3 of 2020; Misc. Commercial Application No. 06 of 2022 and Misc. Commercial Application No. 07 of 2023 all pending in the High Court of Zanzibar Commercial Division Holden at Tunguu -Zanzibar
- In respect of the Commercial Case No. 3 of 2020 the Honourable High Court issued an ex-parte order barring Equity from disposing the Property pending determination of the dispute between the parties coupled with an undertaking by Equity's advocates of channeling all actions through the Court.
- In the pending Misc. Commercial Application No. 07 of 2023 our Client seeks similar reliefs of maintenance of status quo pending determination of the dispute between the parties.
- Our client has learnt with great concern a public notice issued by ACCURATE RECOVERY & AUCTIONS LIMITED in the Guardian Newspaper of 1 January 2024 giving 14 days' notice of sale of the Property and invitation of sealed bids.
- The public is hereby informed that the Property is subject of court litigation and, as such, the purported loan by Equity and alleged default is a contentious matter. In law and equity, the Property is not ripe for sale.
- The public is enjoined to desist from taking part in the impugned sale of the Property since it constitutes a wrongful interference with the due process of law and demeans the sanctity of the Court proceedings.
- Any person who participates in the purported bid does so at own peril for contempt of Court and further legal action against Equity, the auctioneer, and such person who participates in the purported bid process.

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PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CIVIL CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION OF ROAD UPGRADE SERVICES TO MANTRA.

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra Tanzania Ltd invites Civil Contractors to express their Interest (EOI) for the provision of road upgrade services from Likuyu village to Mkuju River Project site (approximately 52Kms) as per scope of work to be provided to short-listed contractors.

Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following;

- Detailed Company Information with Organization structure, List of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
 - Brief scope of work
 - Value of work in USD
 - Contractual Duration
 - Clients name
 - Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback).
- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance certificate from relevant authority.
- Workers Compensation Fund Certificate.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

The interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; mantra@uranium1.co.tz, and the hard copy to the below address latest on **29th January 2024 at 16.00 hours.**

Managing Director
Mantra Tanzania Ltd
Plot No. 1520, Masaki Ikon, Bains Avenue-Masaki
P.O. Box 23451, Tel +255764700440
Dar es Salaam.

Women urged to take maritime courses for blue economy jobs

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

WOMEN and girls in the country have been encouraged to take maritime courses in order to benefit from various employment opportunities in the sub-sector.

Dr Tumaini Gurumo, Principal of the Dar es Salaam Maritime Institute (DMI) made the call yesterday when speaking to reporters at the ongoing annual Zanzibar Trade Fair to mark the 60th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution.

According to her, participation of women in maritime affairs isn't satisfactory; especially seafarers, noting that majority of them are in ticketing sections of sea transport.

She said that job opportunities in the maritime sector do not consider gender and now even the international laws have changed to allow more women to enter into the subsector.

Dr Gurumo acknowledged that there is a negative attitude that a woman should not engage in marine work but that is not true as various efforts are implemented to encourage more women in the area to further stimulate development and improve individual income.

According to her, considering that Zanzibar is an island, many jobs are in the marine transport subsector and as the government

works to build blue economy, it is important to attract more women in the sector while providing close support for them to sail through.

"Due to various efforts, we have seen girls taking maritime courses. At our college, we have female ship captains and engineers who are very happy to have taken the courses and they are well prepared to serve after graduating," she said.

"Shipping technology has grown such that ships no longer take long time in waters."

The principal urged parents and guardians to support girls who have interest in pursuing maritime courses for them to reach their goals.

Gurumo however said that the college is facing a number of challenges, including shortage of tutors with required qualifications including captains, engineers and seafarers.

The college also faces a challenge of connecting students with practical learning in ships, especially in those which travel from one country to another.

She said the college has 4,000 students, a number which according to her, was still low, thus calling for more efforts to encourage youth to join the studies for the country to have enough experts in the maritime subsector.



Students from various Shinyanga Region colleges donate blood at Shinyanga municipality's Kambarage Health Centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole, Zanzibar

Mainland, Zanzibar weights agencies endorse collaboration pact

THE Weight and Measurement Agency (WMA) and Zanzibar Weights and Measures (ZAWEMA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening collaborations and improve efficiency in their activities.

The areas of cooperation in the MoU include exchange of expertise and work tools to improve provision of services on both sides.

Speaking immediately after

witnessing the signing of the agreement at the Trade and Exhibition Centre in Zanzibar at the weekend, Hashil Abdallah, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said it was important to strengthen cooperation between the institutions to ensure that all measurements are correct so that buyers get value for their money.

Dr Abdallah said as per the law, the two agencies have a role to protect consumers in trade, health and environment in re-

lating to weights and measurements and protect citizens from consequences of false measurements.

He said that the agreement is meant to strengthen the performance and increase efficiency and achieve the goals of the institutions because WMA was established many years ago and has enough experience and modern tools.

He said that with the cooperation, WMA will enable ZAWEMA to also use the equipment and

experts to ensure correct measurements in more sectors.

Ali Khamis Juma, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development- Zanzibar said cooperation between the two institutions will help stimulate growth while also allowing ZAWEMA to enter many operational areas as is the case with WMA in Tanzania Mainland.

Stella Kahwa, WMA chief executive officer, said that the cooperation between the two agencies has existed for some time

although it was not official but now it has been formalised to further heighten collaborations in serving the people.

"We often collaborate in conducting various inspections in the Isles in minerals and oil and gas trade to ensure that measurements are correct and customers get what they deserve," she said.

Mohammed Simai Mwalim, ZAWEMA director said that if the measurements are managed correctly in various products produced in the country and

those imported, it helps the government to collect taxes accordingly.

He appealed to all businesspeople in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar to ensure that they use the correct measurements and if they encounter any challenges related to measurements, they should seek support from the agencies' offices.

"We remind the general public of the importance of using the right weights and measurements as a way to cooperate with authorities to stop unlawful practices," he said.

UNWomen demands action towards 50:50 gender ratio

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Organization dedicated for Women (UNWomen) has reminded the government to adhere to the provisions stated in the international and regional conventions it signed and agreed to implement.

The agreements direct member countries including Tanzania to take deliberate legal and policy efforts to realize the 50:50 gender ratio between men and women in various leadership and decision-making positions. UNWomen Resident Coordinator Hodan Addou gave the statement at the weekend when presenting to journalists a gender evaluation bill and recommendations to achieve a 50/50 gender ratio in political processes.

She said the goal of the agreements is to create solutions that address the challenges facing women's participation in politics and leadership, including promoting and protecting their rights.

There are regional and international agreements aimed at protecting and promoting women's rights like the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1979, the Beijing Resolution of 1995 and the 2018 East African Policy and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Devel-

opment," she said.

She stated that studies indicate that the low participation of women in leadership and decision-making levels stands as a setback towards attaining sustainable development goals which therefore deter national efforts to promote democracy and the economy.

Zlatan Milisic, United Nations Coordinator said despite Tanzania having the first ever female president, it still lags behind in the implementation of the convention due to having only 37 percent of women holding seats in parliament which is the biggest decision-making body of the government. He said that despite the presence of legal frameworks that identify the involvement of all people in leadership and other decision-making organizations, women still face challenges that impede them to contest for such positions.

Milisic said that through observing such challenges, they formed a taskforce to observe democratic issues from 2021 to 2022 and provide suggestions to achieve the ratio.

Dr Victoria Lihuru, a Lecturer at Open University of Tanzania, said the taskforce gave recommendations on nine areas including the importance of having amendments of election and political party laws, the new constitution and increasing the participation of women in politics.



Weights and Measures Agency CEO Stella Kahwa (R) and her Zanzibar counterpart, Mohamed Simai, exchange documents in Zanzibar at the weekend shortly after signing a cooperation agreement involving the two agencies. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt need to do more to reach renewable energy goal, says IEA

By Nina Chestney

GLOBAL renewable energy capacity is expected to grow by two and a half times by 2030 but governments need to go further to achieve a goal of tripling it by then, as agreed at the United Nations' climate talks, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has said.

In its annual renewable energy outlook report, the IEA

said new capacity added last year increased by 50 percent from the previous year to 510 gigawatts (GW). That takes installed capacity to 3,700 GW.

Under current policies and market conditions, global renewables capacity is forecast to grow to a total of 7,300 GW by 2028. To reach the 2030 goal agreed last year, it will require reaching at least 11,000 GW.

World governments agreed to triple renewable energy generation capacity by 2030 and move away from fossil fuels at the COP28 UN climate conference in Dubai last December. But no mechanism was agreed to finance the shift to clean energy in developing countries.

The report said the biggest challenge to meeting the goal will be scaling up financing and deployment of renewables

in most emerging and developing economies. "In the absence of any help for African and low-income countries in Asia and Latin America, they will not be able to reach their clean energy targets. That will be a fault line in reaching the 2030 goal," said Fatih Birol, executive director of the IEA.

Over the past year, higher inflation and interest rates have also increased equipment and

financing costs of renewables projects, and policies have been slow to adjust to the new macro-economic environment. Insufficient investment in grids is also hampering faster deployment of renewables, as well as slow and bureaucratic permitting procedures and administrative barriers.

Last year, China had the largest growth in renewables and is expected to account for nearly

60 percent of new renewable capacity by 2028.

China's role is crucial in reaching the 2030 goal because it is expected to install more than half of the new capacity required globally by the end of the decade, the IEA said.

Solar photovoltaic and onshore wind additions to 2028 are also expected to more than double in the United States, the European Union, India and

Brazil compared with the last five years.

Despite many announcements of green hydrogen projects - where hydrogen is produced by using renewable energy to split water and heralded as a cleaner fuel for energy intensive industry and transport - progress is slow, with only 7 percent of current projects expected to come online by 2030, the IEA added.



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority officials (in white T-shirts) pictured at Fumba in Zanzibar on Saturday explaining the agency's activities to visitors to the TCAA pavilion at the just-ended 60th Zanzibar Revolution anniversary fair. Photo: Correspondent Dickson Mlshani

DRC floods: Chaos in Kinshasa as river rises to near-record levels

By Wedaeli Chibelushi, Kinshasa

FLOODS have wreaked chaos in Kinshasa - the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo - with water pouring into homes and residents navigating submerged roads via canoes.

The overflowing River Congo, passing through much of the country, has also swamped places outside the capital.

The vast, vital waterway has reached its highest level in six decades.

More than 300 people have died in floods over the past months, officials said.

On Thursday, residents in the impoverished megacity of Kinshasa told the BBC how "schools, hospitals and churches" have been washed away.

"I had lived here with my relatives... I have lost everything," Jonas Mungindami said.

Similarly, Denise Tuzola said her house is now "full of water". Denise Tuzola's neighbourhood has been inundated with floodwater. "There is no church here any more and there is no way for the children to go to school," she added.

Kinshasa is home to several small

rivers and streams, which often double as open sewers. Many have now overflowed.

On one flooded street, a man waded through through thigh-level water, hauling a canoe full of passengers behind him. Trucks drove cautiously through the same waters, while dozens of discarded bottles bob on the surface.

The RVF, the agency overseeing DR Congo's waterways, sounded the alarm in late December.

It warned that heavy rains would cause "exceptional flooding" around the Kinshasa area.

By this point, provinces such as Mongala and Ituri had already faced serious flooding.

In Kinshasa, flooding is common but this year the River Congo has risen just shy of 6.26 metres, the level reached during record flooding in 1961.

Further upstream, in the city of Kisangani, the mayor said that over 200 houses have been submerged.

The Congo River has also caused turmoil in Congo-Brazzaville, a nation that borders DR Congo.

Flooding there has impacted more than 336,000 people and 34 health facilities, the World Health Organization said on Thursday.

Oryx hands gas cylinders, stoves to food vendors in clean energy drive

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited (OGTL) has distributed 500 gas cylinders and stoves worth 41m/- to food vendors to enable them cook with clean energy.

Speaking shortly after the distribution exercise in Dodoma city at the weekend, Benoit Araman, OGTL Managing Director, said the company will continue to support government efforts in promoting the use of clean cooking energy in the country.

Araman noted that using clean energy in cooking improves health of women who are affected by the fumes and smoke from charcoal and firewood.

"Cooking with LPG frees a lot of time for women as they can cook quicker and in a more efficient manner, preventing them from delaying cooking hence protecting them from gender-based violence.

It also gives children more time for studies instead of going to the bush to collect firewood. It protects the environment by preventing deforestation due to cutting down trees for charcoal and firewood," he said.

He said cooking with gas also saves times, thus allowing them to engage in other activities. He said children will also have enough to study instead of going to the bush to collect firewood.

"Cooking with LPG frees a lot of time for women as they can cook quicker and in a more efficient manner, preventing them from being late for dinner, hence protecting them from gender-based violence.

It also gives children more time for studies instead of going to the bush to collect firewood. It protects the environment by preventing deforestation due to cutting down trees for charcoal and firewood," he said.

Araman said the company has since July 2021 been coordinating efforts to support the government's energy access agenda.

He said OGTL prides itself to be recognized as the main LPG supplier to Tanzanian citizens. He said the company will continue to heavily invest in Tanzania to ensure the transition to a clean energy.

Dodoma Urban MP Anthony Mavunde commended the company for providing food vendors with the gas cylinders, adding that the region is determined to ensure environmental protection by promoting the use of clean cooking energy.

"We also commend President Samia Suluhu Hassan for being in the forefront in promoting the use of clean cooking energy as well as protecting the environment. The President wants to see 80 percent of Tanzanians using clean energy for cooking by 2032," he said.

He added that President Samia's initiatives in promoting the use of clean cooking energy will save the lives of food vendors who were exposed to smoke due to use of dirty energy sources which includes charcoal.

Earlier, OGTL Marketing Manager, Peter Ndomba conducted training to food vendors on how to safely use the gas stoves.

Ndomba said apart from distributing the gas cylinders and stoves, the company provides training to citizens to ensure they use them properly.

Special Seats MP Neeema Lugangira said she is aware of the various challenges that women face in preparing food, adding that the donated gas cylinders and stoves would enable women to engage in other economic activities instead of spending hours searching for firewood.

Dodoma District Commissioner Jabiri Shekimwiri applauded the company for empowering food vendors, calling upon other stakeholders to also support the government's clean cooking energy campaign.

MWANGA

HAKIKABANK

MWANGA HAKIKA BANK LIMITED

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF CHARGES AND TARIFFS

PRODUCTS/ SERVICES	BUSINESS CURRENT A/C	PREMIUM CURRENT A/C	PERSONAL SAVING A/C	SALARY A/C	MTOTO SAVING A/C	JIPANGE SAVING A/C	WEKEZA GROUP A/C	MALENGO SAVING A/C	FOREX ACCOUNT USD & EURO	JIWEKEE SAVING A/C	MHB PAMOJA A/C	MSOMI ACCOUNT
Account opening	100,000.00	50,000.00	20,000.00	0	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	100,000.00	10	0	50,000.00	10,000.00
Minimum operating Balance	100,000.00	50,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0	10,000.00	100,000.00	10	10,000.00	50,000.00	5,000.00
Interest Payable	N/A	N/A	3.00%	3.00%	6.00%	2.00%	3.00%	2% < 10Mil, 4% >= 10Mil	0.50%	2.00%	2%	3.00%
Interest bearing amount	N/A	N/A	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	5,000.00	20,000.00	500,000.00	20,000.00
Monthly Maintenance fee	20,000.00	10,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	Free	Free	Free	Free	2	Free	Free	Free
Deposit	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Monthly Statement	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Adhock statement Per page	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	1	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00

OTHER CHARGES

SERVICES	AMOUNT (TZS)
Certificate of Balance	30,000.00
Confirmation to the Auditors	30,000.00
Search for information above 5 years	15,000.00
Cheque book cost (Per Leaf)	600.00
Status report	30,000.00
Stop payment order	30,000.00
Dishonoured cheque for lack of funds or refer to drawer or effect not cleared	100,000.00
Dishonoured cheque due to the technical error caused by customer	60,000.00
Dormant Account Activation	Free
Account Closing on Customer Demand	10,000.00
Counter cheque per leaf [Within the Bank]	15,000.00
Salary Processing fee [per Transaction]	1,000.00
Customer ID	10,000.00
Pre-Mature breaking of Fixed Deposit on customer request	Minimum of 50% of the accrued interest
CCTV Camera footage searching request from Customer	30,000.00
Uncollected Cheque Book/Destruction	5,000.00
Visa Card Issuance-Classic	10,000.00
Visa Card Issuance-Gold	15,000.00
Replacement Visa Card-Classic	15,000.00
Replacement Visa Card-Gold	25,000.00
Umoja Card Maintenance fee	1000 per month
Visa Card- Classic Maintenance fee	3,000 per QTR
Visa Card-Gold Maintenance fee	5,000 per QTR
Uncollected ATM Card	5,000.00
PIN reset fee	5,000.00
Withdraw fee local (Umoja ATM)	1000-99,000=1500 100,000-400,000=1700
Withdraw fee other Bank (Domestic Banks)	3,500
Withdraw fee other Bank (International)	11,000
Balance inquiry Umoja ATM	300
Balance inquiry other Domestic Banks	950
Balance inquiry other Bank (International)	2,000
Decline Domestic [Insufficient fund]	1,000
Decline International [Insufficient Balance]	1,500
QR transactions	3% of Transaction Amt
POS transactions	3% of Transaction Amt
E-commerce transactions	3% of Transaction Amt

Cash Withdraw Over the Counter [TZS/ USD/EURO]

TRANSACTION AMOUNT	RATES
Wekeza/Jiwekezee	2,000.00
Bellow 10 Mil	3,000.00
Above 10Mil to 50 Mil	0.10%
Above 50Mil to 100 Mil	0.090%
Above 100Mil to 300 Mil	0.089%
Above 300 Mil	0.079%

Cash Withdraw Over the Counter Foreign Currency [USD/EURO]

TRANSACTION AMOUNT	RATES
Bellow USD/EURO 4,000	2
Above USD/EURO 4000	0.1% more than USD/EURO 40

AGENCY BANKING CHARGES

TYPE OF SERVICES	RATES
Deposit	Free
Balance Inquiry	500
Min Statement	700
Transfer of fund within MHB	2,000
Transfer of funds to other Bank	13,000

AGENCY BANKING WITHDRAWAL FEE

AMOUNT	FEE
Up to 50,000	850.00
50,000 - 100,000	1,000.00
100,000 - 300,000	2,000.00
300,000 - 500,000	3,500.00
500,000 - 1,000,000	4,500.00
1,000,000 - 3,000,000	6,000.00
3,000,000 - 5,000,000	10,000.00

MOBILE BANKING CHARGES

WITHDRAWAL CHARGES	FUND TRANSFER CHARGES
MINIMUM [TZS]	MAXIMUM [TZS]
0	10,000
10,001	19,999
20,000	49,999
50,000	99,999
100,000	199,999
200,000	499,999
500,000	999,999
1,000,000	2,000,000
2,000,001	3,000,000
3,000,001	5,000,000
RATES [TZS]	RATES [TZS]
800	1,800
3,500	5,200
7,200	8,200
11,200	10,500
12,000	15,000

EFT/SWIFT/ TISS

Transfer of Funds within MHB	Transfer of funds to other Banks
EFT within the Bank (Incoming)	Free
EFT to other Banks	1,500.00
TISS Transfer	10,000.00
T.T. Transfer	-

STANDING ORDER

Instructions within MHB	Standing Order to other Bank
Instructions within MHB	FREE
Standing Order to other Bank	10,000.00

www.mhbbank.co.tz

TPA urged to increase efficiency at ports

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA Ports Authority (TPA) has been challenged to increase efficiency and hence contribution to the national economy.

This was said at the weekend by various government officials who visited TPA pavilion at the Zanzibar International Trade Fair held at Fumba exhibition grounds in the isles.

Exaud Kigahe, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade said that the industrial sector depends much on the efficiency of transport sector in achieving its goals to serve people and contribute to the development of the nation. Kigahe said the products produced by entrepreneurs and industries in the country really need efficient ports to reach domestic and foreign markets.

"We congratulate TPA and other transport institutions for the good job of enabling Tanzanians to be

productive in their activities of wealth creation and trade in crops and items produced in various sectors," he said.

Prof Godius Kahyarara, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport, commended TPA for participating in the exhibitions and for the success registered in serving ships and cargo handling in the first half of the 2023/2024 fiscal year. "I am happy for your participation in this exhibition where we join our fellow Tanzanians to reflect together on the best way to increase efficiency of our services for our people and clients," he said.

He said TPA and Zanzibar Port Corporation (ZPC) are doing a good job in the transportation sector but there are still opportunities to work more efficiently and that is why both governments are making efforts to increase efficiency.

"I call on the board of directors and management of TPA to fully

manage the plans you have set for yourself, which if implemented well, port activities will have a greater contribution to the national income and development of our country as a whole," he said.

Dr Ally Posi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport said TPA's participation in Zanzibar exhibition is an important opportunity to promote cooperation between TPA and ZPC and other institutions to exchange experience. He said the exhibition gives them the opportunity to meet people who are the main beneficiaries of the services provided by the two institutions.

"TPA is doing a good job; you deserve congratulations but it is not enough for us leaders to know that you are doing well. People also deserve to know your activities. Use this opportunity to educate them, give detailed explanations on their questions and receive their arguments and advice," said Posi.



Masta Shangwe (in red) and Abenego Mhagama (L), head of Vodacom Tanzania Plc's Southern Highlands zone, pictured at the weekend presenting a dummy insurance card to Arusha city's Mount Meru Regional Referral Hospital's acting Medical Officer, Dr Scholastica Malangalila (R). The recipient is Grace John (C), one of the 200 mothers and their children to have benefited from the ending year-long (2023) offer Vodacom extended through its "Sambaza Shangwe, Gusa Maisha" campaign. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE PROVISION OF EMPLOYEES WELLNESS PROGRAMME SERVICES TO SANDVIK MINING & CONSTRUCTION TANZANIA LTD

Sandvik Mining and Construction Tanzania Limited (THE COMPANY) is located in Mwanza, on the edge of Lake Victoria.

The purpose of this EOI is to explore the market for service providers that possess the requisite skills, knowledge, and capacity to provide the required Employees wellness programme all Sandvik employees.

Mandatory Pre-Qualification Criteria

1. At least two active employee's wellness programme contracts from a reputable organization.
2. Minimum of 5 years' experience of proven background in providing employees wellness programme to local communities or foreign companies in Tanzania.
3. Wellness programme certification (Compliant with all required permits, Certifications and Licenses).
4. Compliant with all National labour Laws and Regulations
5. Compliant with local content regulations.
6. Insurance Cover
7. Provide financial statements for the previous/past two financial year.

Scope of Work

The service provider will be required to: -

1. Psychological support (Telephonic 24/7 to all phones lines and face to face counselling)
2. Cancelling employees on financial wellbeing.
3. Coaching employees on Nutrition and Lifestyle.
4. Provide Healthy and Productivity programmes to employees (Occupational Health).
5. Provide other services that might be required by the organisation. eg (Self and Formal referral)

Expression of Interest

If your organization meets the above pre-qualification criteria, and you would like to be invited to tender, please submit your Expression of Interest, Company Profile, Company registration, Staffing policies, CV's for all key personnel and evidence of the above listed pre-qualifications tenders.tanzania@sandvik.com

The Reference "SMCT/EW01/2024" must be quoted in the subject of the email.

Last Date for submission: **28th January. 2024.**

Sandvik Mining and Construction Tanzania Limited

Marriage reregistration with us fake news, declares RITA

By Guardian Reporter

THE Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) yesterday described as false and erroneous reports circulating on social media platforms calling on all married couples to register their union with the agency.

Quoting sections 30, 43 and 46 of the Marriage Act, Rita Chief Executive Officer Frank Kanyusi told journalists in Dar es Salaam that couples issued with government

marriage certificates should know that their marriages are recognised by law. He said couples should not waste time by going to RITA offices to seek registration of their marriages again.

"I wish to clarify that couples are recognised by law whether they were married under religious, customary or the government," he said.

RITA has been registering all children under five years in a special nationwide programme which

is says the has been a success because free birth certificates are issued by its officers based in the offices of ward executive officers and health facilities offering maternal and child health services.

"Certificates issued at those designated points are recognised by RITA. Therefore, the certificates must be respected and accepted by all authorities," he said, adding that Rita has received information that some officials reject certificates with hand-written details.



AB INITIO CABIN CREW COURSE.

ATCL Training Center is happy to announce another Intake of Cabin Crew Course which is scheduled to Commence on 01st March, 2024. Applicants are advised to submit their application to the Principal's Office, ATCL Administration Building, Julius Nyerere International Airport, Terminal One, adjacent to Airport Police Station, Submit your application before 31st January, 2024.

Applicants Qualifications:

- i. Age; 18 years - 25 years
- ii. No visible Tattoo
- iii. He or She should be physically fit, sane mind and of height 5'4ft (162 cm) and above
- iv. Has passed at least four subjects in Ordinary Level Education of which English and Geography is a Must.
- v. Has ability to speak Kiswahili and English Language fluently; Applicants who speaks Arabic, French and Chinese will have an added advantage.
- vi. He or She should be a Tanzanian National.

NB: Foreign Nationals are also welcome to apply after obtaining Immigration Visa to Live and Study in the country. Must also verify your Education Certificate at National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA).

Application Letter must be attached with;

- i. A copy of form four certificate and other Academic Certificates.
- ii. A copy of birth Certificate
- iii. Two passport size pictures with a blue background and One full picture, size 6x8
- iv. Personal Curriculum Vitae -CV

Send your Application to;

Principal
ATCL Training Center
Box no 543
Dar Es Salaam
Email , training@airtanzania.co.tz

For more information, Please Contact these numbers ONLY:
Mob: +255754345874, +255735 787212

ATCL TRAINING CENTER
"FULFILL YOUR FLYING DREAMS WITH US"

Wall falls on four playing children, three die

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

THREE children from two different families have died after being hit by a wall at Zongomela Street in Kahama municipal council in Shinyanga Region.

Shija Mihayo (5), Martha Shabani (7) and Maguzu Shija (5) died after a brick-fenced house which they were hiding in collapsed and killed them instantly while injuring another.

Janeth Magomi, Shinyanga Regional Police Commander told journalists here at the week-

end that the incident occurred at around 5am.

He said the injured child was taken to Kahama District Hospital and was treated and discharged.

"I was in Kahama for official duties and as I arrived at Zongomela Street, people stopped

me and said there was a child who was injured and needed medical help. I took the four-year-child to hospital," she said.

She added that when she arrived at the hospital and wanted to see the other three children whom residents had

taken to the same hospital; she was informed that they had already died.

The RPC called on residents to continue to take precautions and stop their children from staying and playing in dangerous areas during this rainy season.



Residents of Nkuyu Street in Mbeya Urban District's Iganzo ward pictured yesterday moving to relocate graves damaged by recent floods. Right is Mbeya city health officer Johnson Ndaru. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

UK gov't plans further nuclear power expansion

LONDON

THE UK government is exploring plans to build a new large-scale nuclear plant, despite concerns about delays to existing projects.

Ministers say the project would be the biggest expansion of the sector in 70 years, reducing reliance on overseas supply. The new plant would quadruple energy supplies by 2050, they say.

But concerns have been raised, with existing nuclear projects already behind schedule and over-budget.

The government's Civil Nuclear Roadmap is intended to bolster the UK's energy independence by exploring a new site for another nuclear power station of the size and scale of the £30bn plants under construction at Hinkley Point in Somerset and committed to Sizewell in Suffolk.

Industry sources have told the BBC the leading candidates would include Wylfa on Anglesey or Moorside in Cumbria.

Thursday's announcement also pledged £300m to produce nuclear reactor fuel in the UK, currently only commercially produced in Russia, which it said would lower bills and improve energy security.

But recent nuclear projects have been beset by delays, cost overruns and in the case of Sizewell C, continuing local opposition.

In total, the government has now earmarked more than £1bn for the Sizewell C project, building on its original £700m stake as part of its plan to rapidly expand the UK's nuclear energy sector.

The Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA) said all clean energy needed fast-tracking.

Nuclear power currently provides around 15% of the UK's electricity but many of the country's ageing reactors are due to be decommissioned over the next decade.

'Dragging their feet'

Progress can be slow - to get from planning to "power on" can take nearly 20 years. Consultations for Sizewell took 10 years alone.

The majority of construction there is yet to start and strong local opposition to the project remains.

Nuclear plant protesters lose appeal hearing

The government will hope to address such problems by streamlining the development of new power stations. By introducing smarter regulation it anticipates it will be able to deliver new nuclear power plants faster.

Jack Abbott, an expert in the clean energy sector, who is also a Labour candidate in the neighbouring constituency to Sizewell, said the government had been "dragging their feet" on nuclear for too long.

"Fourteen years and not one new site opened, despite inheriting 10 approved sites from the last Labour government. Labour supports expanding the UK's nuclear power fleet, which must form a critical part of our future energy mix," Mr Abbott said.

The REA is also sceptical. It said the government had been exploring a new private-led nuclear plant for years. However, the association did commend the government on its plans to commit £300m to produce reactor fuel in the UK.

Policy director Frank Gordon added: "We need to accelerate the deployment of all clean energy sources, especially renewable power from diverse sources, plus supporting the roll-out of the much-needed clean technologies, energy storage working at all scales and duration."

But the government said the plans would also support thousands of jobs, as well as "pushing Putin out of the global market" to provide a quarter of the UK's electricity needs.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said nuclear was the "perfect antidote to the energy challenges facing Britain".

Of the two consultations being published on Thursday one will focus on "a new approach" to siting future nuclear power stations, empowering developers to find suitable locations. The other will

lead on encouraging private investment.

"Community engagement will remain critical to any decisions, alongside maintaining robust criteria such as nearby population densities," the government said.

Tom Greatrex, chief executive of the Nuclear Industry Association, welcomed the publication of the roadmap and streamlined regulation but said the UK needed to develop both large and small nuclear generation "at scale and at pace".

UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA (TANZANIA) LIMITED UBA

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF CHARGES AND FEES

S/N	ITEM/TRANSACTION	NETAL	CORPORATE
SECTION A	INTERNET ACCOUNTS	N/A	N/A
	FREEDOM SAVINGS	N/A	N/A
	Required minimum opening balance	TZS 15,000	
	Minimum operating balance	TZS 5,000	
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 20,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 5,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges	N/A		
EMPLOYEE SAVINGS	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 15,000 USD 15		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 2,000 USD 10		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - REWARDS	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - SALARY	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - COOPERATIVE	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - PAYROLL	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		
Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - OTHER	N/A	N/A	
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Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
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Monthly maintenance fee	N/A		
Withdrawal Charges @ Counter	N/A		
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Required minimum opening balance	TZS 2,000 - Maximum withdrawal of TZS 5,000,000		
Minimum operating balance	TZS 500,000 - 5,000,000		

MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2024

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

With reforms, Tanzania could produce more food for export

REPORTS from Tehran have it that the Iranian agricultural ministry has set Africa generally and Tanzania in particular as the first option for extraterritorial crop cultivation in its ongoing programmes.

These ideas are not new, as it was earlier heard that Saudi Arabia was seeking to do the same although, in the latter case, it wasn't clear if any approaches had been made and how they were considered, or it was still at the stage of brainstorming among strategic stakeholders.

While the Saudi plans may have come too early at the policy level, it is arguable if there is some room for current wishes to be taken up, at least by looking at how investment regulations can be adjusted.

The point here is that, if the proposal came at the moment and landed at the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), the reflex at that agency would be to lay out the kind of incentives provided and then seek open land that isn't a reserved or conservation area. When it is an extension of farmland nearby it is taken as empty or available for investment, whereas that needs to be dozens of kilometers from the nearest holders of customary entitlement - as an extension of clan-owned lands.

This could, of course, lead to clashes, not to mention the possibility that such land transfers contribute little or nothing to the local economy. The current 'mode of operation' is to demand 'corporate social responsibility', where community facilities are created. That would be a case of having a title deed for each farmer as personal land the particular farmer could decide to sell to accommodate her or his respective needs.

Many middle-income or semi-industrialised states have problems with their food industries, incapable of producing enough internally and finding the world market unreliable.

These find seeking to produce in third countries a solution, even when

they have expansive land like Saudi Arabia. Thus, they might not wish to "ruin" underground water on irrigation while, in process, seeking to spare resources - as in the cases of oil revenues in both Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Africa's Great Lakes region is richly endowed with water as a natural resource of immense utility, even as Lake Victoria is visibly overtaxed owing to the immense water needs in regions. However, there are easily conceivable ways in which at least a portion of river systems or tributaries could be used for such investment, for instance in damming some of such flows.

That has to take into account downstream needs, and that is why it is vital to move to land regimes where individuals or portions of communities could possibly transfer titles through acceptable sums of payment as in urban house purchases. When there is extensive need for such land, many people will obtain cash to do commerce, lessening the pressure on land and helping to sustain industry. They would thus gain from population growth while shifting from agriculture to commerce.

Even as suggestions about exporting food production to Africa may appear 'imperialist', this would actually be another sphere of foreign investment. This would apply so long as people disabuse themselves of the belief that foreign investors would merely be establishing industries but without opening farms.

We surely need more serious brainstorming on any fears and reservations regarding how best to handle foreign financiers interested in investing in our country.

There is much promise - and sense - in planning to reduce poverty by enabling more of our people, in both the public and private sectors, to do commerce with foreign agencies or agents. It all depends on how we move.

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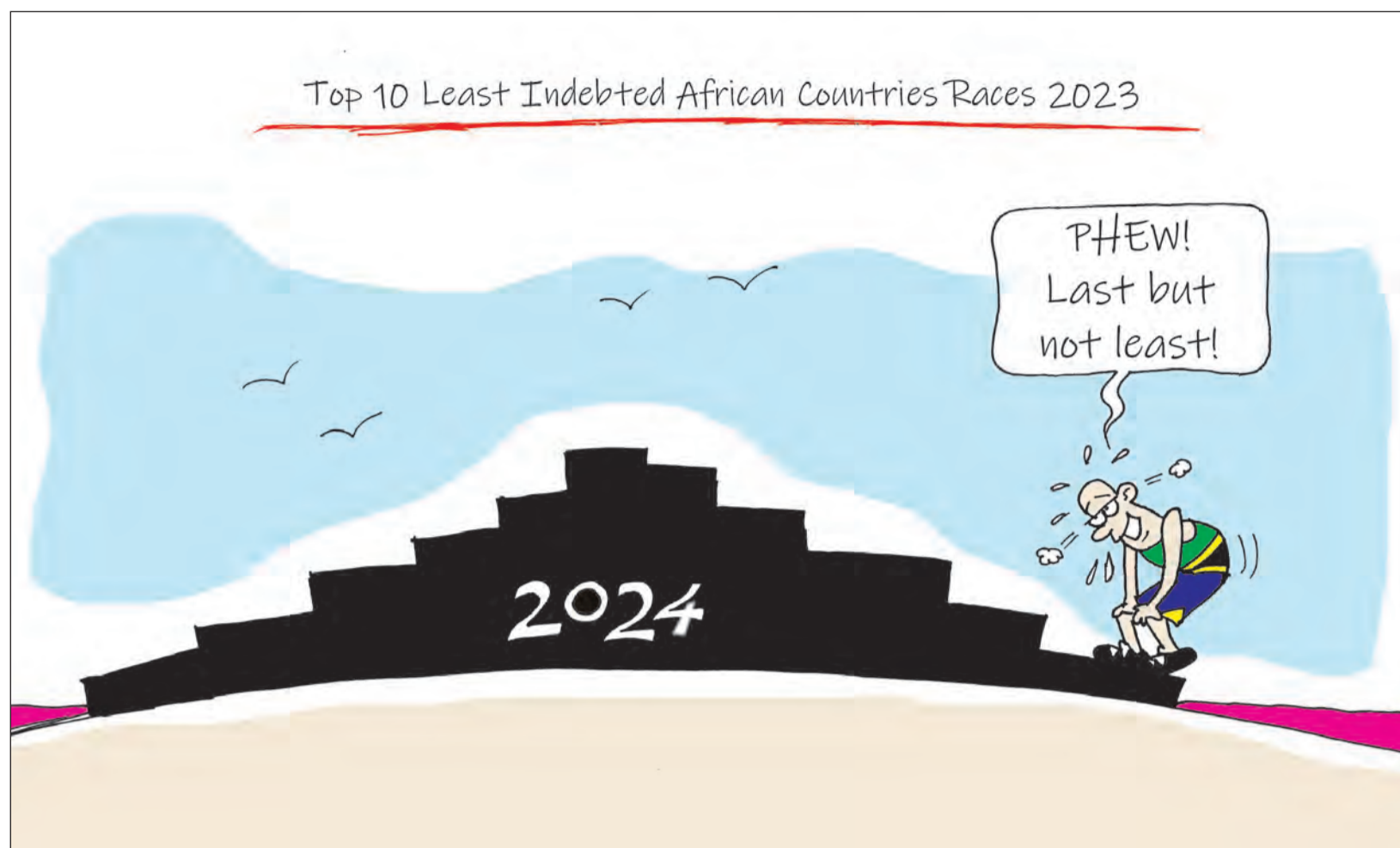
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New disease manifests after Covid and vaccination

By Marina Zhang

SOME vaccinated and Covid-infected people are reportedly being diagnosed with a new type of disease called VEXAS syndrome - an autoinflammatory disease discovered in 2020.

Many people are familiar with autoimmune diseases, often caused by dysfunction among the adaptive immune cells, while problems within the innate immune system often cause autoinflammatory diseases.

VEXAS syndrome - short for vacuoles, E1 enzyme, X-linked, autoinflammatory, somatic syndrome - is caused by mutations in the innate immune cells, a somatic mutation in the UBA1 gene found on the X chromosome.

Somatic mutations cannot be inherited, which means that individuals acquire this mutation later in life. The mutation affects the stem cells in the bone marrow. The cells mature into specialised immune cells that circulate within the bloodstream.

Immune cells carrying the UBA1 mutation are highly inflammatory and once enough of them accumulate, patients start developing symptoms.

In April 2023, a French paper reported on a 76-year-old man diagnosed with VEXAS syndrome following Covid vaccination.

Three days after receiving the Pfizer Covid vaccine, the man developed tender bumps under the skin, rashes and purple spots on the limbs. Skin problems are commonly reported in VEXAS patients. He was later determined to have the UBA1 mutation.

"The rare incidence of VEXAS syndrome and the short delay of three days between vaccination and onset of symptoms were very suggestive of the vaccine role as a trigger," authors from Drôme Nord Hospitals wrote.

Another VEXAS syndrome diagnosis occurred in a 72-year-old patient. He developed fever, fatigue, deep vein thrombosis and a cough after a Covid-19 infection.

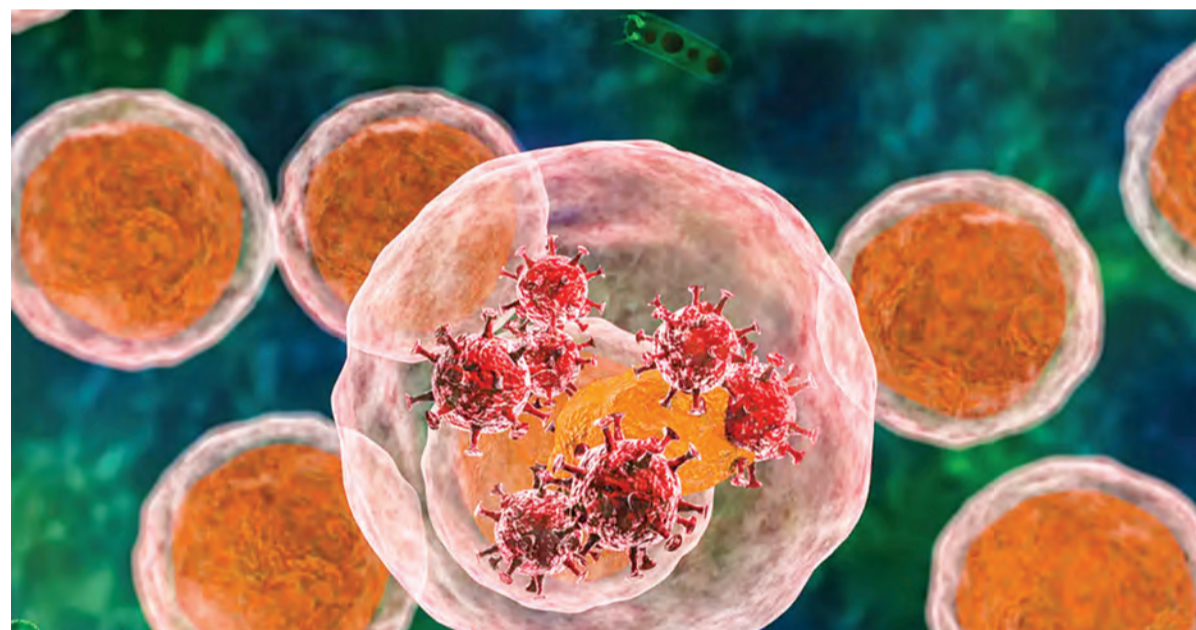
For months, clinicians misdiagnosed the patient as having long Covid. However, upon detecting the UBA1 mutation, he was diagnosed with VEXAS syndrome.

Some doctors say there may be a link but an indirect one. "In my experience, it is unlikely that VEXAS syndrome could have been triggered by an infection or Covid-19 vaccination," Dr Sinisa Savic, immunologist and associate clinical professor at the University of Leeds, told The Epoch Times.

"We know that, as people age, they develop all sorts of mutations in the bone marrow ... That is why VEXAS is largely found in the elderly population," he added.

VEXAS syndrome tends to manifest in older men over 50. However, infections and vaccinations can trigger or worsen symptoms in people already on track to develop VEXAS syndrome, Dr Savic said.

He elaborated: "Anything that triggers



an immune response can cause temporary worsening symptoms; I don't think there's any particular argument about that."

An Italian study meanwhile reported a VEXAS syndrome patient who developed blood clots after Covid infection. Blood clots are common in both VEXAS syndrome and Covid-19.

Among the specialised immune cells, only the innate immune cells have been found to carry the mutation. The adaptive immune cells, forming what is known as the "third" or last line of defence, have not been found to carry this mutation.

According to Dr Savic, it is possible that adaptive immune cells - T and B cells - would be unable to survive long enough to become specialised if they carry the UBA1 mutation, while specialisation of innate immune cells appears to be less affected by the UBA1 mutation.

All infections and vaccinations trigger immune responses necessary for the immune system to react and form immune memory to the pathogen - that is, an organism causing disease to its host.

But Dr Savic says that, for patients suffering from autoinflammatory diseases, any immune reaction can cause an imbalance in an already precarious system, potentially worsening the patient's condition.

"This is the case with any autoimmune or inflammatory condition because the immune system tries to control itself, but if you're then challenged by something else, then that level of control may be reduced," he further noted.

During an immune response, the body produces more immune cells; in patients with VEXAS syndrome, this could mean more mutated innate cells.

Innate immune cells are also the first line of defence; they are the first immune cells to activate.

"Cells that carry the mutation are

much easier to trigger an inflammatory response," Dr Savic added.

VEXAS syndrome was first detected in 2020. Researchers from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) recruited over 2,500 patients suffering from various inflammatory diseases and studied their genes for shared mutation.

Three patients were found to have UBA1 mutation, which the study's authors linked to their inflammatory manifestation. Hundreds of people with VEXAS syndrome have since been identified by the NIH and around the world.

Symptoms of VEXAS syndrome are highly variable and nonspecific, Dr Savic said, adding that patients may develop weight loss, fever, malaise, skin rashes, and joint and tissue inflammation.

Since the disease affects immune cells in the blood, many people may have anaemia and insufficient immune cells in circulation.

In the bone marrow, mutated stem cells produce specialised yet mutated immune cells with vacuoles that look "completely disorganised" under the microscope. They also "produce quite significant amounts of inflammatory chemicals," Dr Savic said.

These specialised immune cells then enter into the circulation, inducing inflammation in the body.

As the disease progresses, a range of organs become inflamed and impaired and may start to fail, leading to death.

Dr Savic said his has not been proven without a doubt, but noted: "There is certainly an agreement in opinion that most of the organ inflammation is caused by these mutated cells infiltrating the organ and causing damage to everything."

He said many patients also develop progressive bone marrow failure, which can also lead to death if untreated.

However, he explained that the prognosis of patients varies, with

some declining rapidly while others with similar biometrics may survive for many years.

Since the disease was only recently discovered, researchers have not found many viable long-term treatments. Patients usually respond well to anti-inflammatory steroids, but steroids are harmful if used for prolonged periods.

Patients at risk of bone marrow failure may be considered for allogeneic stem cell transplant. In this procedure, the body's stem cells are destroyed using chemo and radiation therapy and replaced with other people's stem cells.

Autologous transplants, meaning transplantation of a person's own healthy stem cells, are often not considered out of concern that mutated cells may be transplanted.

However, Dr Savic said that there have been cases of successful autologous transplants where the patient with VEXAS syndrome was cured. However, these transplantations took place before the patient was diagnosed with VEXAS syndrome.

While clinicians have not found better treatments for their patients, they at least have a clearer idea of what not to give them.

"In the past, many of these patients would have been on treatments that are so-called traditional DMARDs (disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs), which are to a degree bone marrow toxic, and in these circumstances certainly wouldn't be the conditions you would want to use," Dr Savic explained.

Many patients found not to have the UBA1 mutation still have symptoms that look very similar to those of VEXAS syndrome.

*** Marina Zhang is a health writer for The Epoch Times, based in New York. She mainly covers stories on Covid-19 and the healthcare system.**

By Songa wa Songa

Taj Mahal: From fascinating love story to tourist hotspot

LAST month, the government of the Republic of India through its Ministry of External Affairs invited 30 senior journalists from 16 African countries for a familiarization visit to help them better understand one of the world's emerging superpowers.

I was Tanzania's sole representative in the tour—unpacks what transpired there in a series capturing important events. First things first: when the topic is India, the first thing is the story of Taj Mahal, of course. In fact, this is where delegates were taken first.

Many have seen the iconic building in photos but those who have been there know that it is more than a building. Taj Mahal is a fantastic story of love, infusion of cultures and has since transformed into one of the biggest tourist attractions in India hence a source of income.

Located in what was once the capital India, Agra city some 220 km from New Delhi, Taj Mahal is a city within a city in Uttar Pradesh state. And it is nearly impossible to walk into this compound, listen to its captivating story and leave without carrying a piece of it with you.

For, outside the expansive compound and elsewhere in the city, there are a lot of shops, kiosks and vendors selling miniature Taj Mahals ranging from those made of marble to plastic. Then there are clothes, caps, key holders, you name it.

"Welcome to Taj Mahal, I am your guide for today," said Shamsuddin Khan as we alighted from the vehicle.

The man who has been working here for 36 years began to narrate the story of Taj Mahal as members of the delegation listened attentively in a mixture of disbelief and awe.

The imposing building with Quranic verse inscribed on the walls is surrounded by Persian-style gardens with man-made water channels that reflect its shapes and gives the breathtaking illusion of being a float-

ing stone.

"Taj Mahal simply means Memorial Palace. It's a true story of love because the then king of this land built it in memory of his fifth wife whom he loved the most," Khan said.

The tour guide added that emperor Shah Jahan built the palace in memory of his beloved Arjumand Banu Baygam who was of Persian origin.

"She died in 1630 while giving birth and the construction of the palace commenced in 1631 and took 22 years to complete," he said.

"There were 200 workers on the construction site and it cost 700 million rupees then."

These workers included reputed masons, stone-cutters, inlayers, carvers, painters, calligraphers, dome builders and other artisans who were assembled from the whole of the empire and also from the Central Asia and Iran.

Once the iconic Indo-Persian structure was done, Arjumand's tomb which was somewhere else was moved into the palace where it lies to date.

Khan claimed that Arjumand is the only woman in the world to have been buried three times, stating that after her death in 1631, she was initially buried in the Zainabad garden in Burhanpur. The tomb of the emperor who died in 1666 is also in the mausoleum.

With its captivating story, Taj Mahal is a never-miss destination for most foreign tourists. However, it also a big hit amongst Indians. It should be remembered that India is a country of 1.4 billion people, with 25 million living in the city of Delhi



alone. This means local tourism is huge.

Khan said visits to Taj Mahal see between 60,000 to 70,000 ticket sales every day with children under 15 entering free. Foreign tourists are charged 1,300 rupees while Indians pay 250 rupees for a guided tour of the Taj Mahal.

"Plus children, we get about 100,000 tourists every day," he said.

After the end of the tour, the delegates were taken to a handcraft shop within the city for Taj Mahal souvenirs.

"Here you get Taj Mahal made of original

marble like the ones used to build the palace," one of the assistants said while banging a lamp decoration on a steel table top.

The Taj Mahal was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 for being "the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage".

According to UNESCO, the main criterion for its designation is that "Taj Mahal represents the finest architectural and artistic achievement through perfect harmony and excellent craftsmanship in a whole range of Indo-Islamic sepulchral architecture.

"It is a masterpiece of architectural style in conception, treatment and execution and has unique aesthetic qualities in balance, symmetry and harmonious blending of various elements."

On its integrity, the UN body says the same is maintained in the intactness of tomb, mosque, guest house, main gate and the whole Taj Mahal complex.

"The physical fabric is in good condition and structural stability, nature of foundation, verticality of the minarets and other constructional aspects of Taj Mahal have been studied and continue to be monitored.

To control the impact of deterioration due for atmospheric pollutants, an air control monitoring station is installed to constantly monitor air quality and control decay factors as they arise.

To ensure the protection of the setting, the adequate management and enforcement of regulations in the extended buffer zone is needed. In addition, future development for tourist facilities will need to ensure that the functional and visual integrity of the property is maintained, particularly in relationship with the Agra Fort."

Three years' successes while marking 60 years of the Zanzibar Revolution

By Guardian Reporter

THE Zanzibar Fishing Company (ZAFICO) was started in 2017 under law number 15 of 2013 on starting of public firms in Zanzibar. The main purpose of ZAFICO is to make changes in the fisheries sector in order to help small entrepreneurs and fishers to move from routine fishing to commercial fishing.

IMPLEMENTATION DURING THE THREE YEARS OF DR HUSSEIN MWINYI

In ensuring that ZAFICO attains the principal goal intended it has been able to implement tasks via a number of activities including:

(1) Distributing fishing gear to fishers

TAFIO has been able to hand equipment to small fishermen including fiber boats and machines to some Pemba fishers. Similarly through the COVID-19 recovery program in collaboration with the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries has been able to issue loans for five meter boats, seven, eight meters, along with fishing equipment for eight meter boats.

(2) To finalize the purchase of two boats for fishing in high seas

ZAFICO has been able to hand equipment to small scale fishers through the COVID-19 relief program to buy two boats for high seas fishing, Sehewa 2 and Sehewa 3. The boats are at present being operated in joint venture between TAFICO and Blue Land Ltd, a locally owned private firm to boost deep sea fishing in the country and uplift local fishermen in that area of fishing.

(3) To make sardines one among strategic produces for Zanzibar

On account of various efforts conducted by ZAFICO as implementation of promises by Honorable Zanzibar President and Revolutionary Council chairman, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi parallel with enhancing commerce through sea products, with sardines having been formally recognized that it is among strategic export products in growing the country's economy.

(4) To build infrastructure and industries for sardines processing

ZAFICO in pursuing efforts to realize objectives intended has succeeded to build infrastructure for sardines processing in

order to increase sardines' value and processed at standards accepted nationally and internationally. The project expected to use a total of 23bn/- includes building two sardines processing factories, building sardines washing bays, boiling basins, cold storage facilities, an ice cubes plant, a marketing centre along with to let facilities, a TAFICO office building, experts' houses, residences for sardines small scale fishers and a sports, relaxation centre, an auction market and a getty. Similarly, ZAFICO expects to build 5000 sardines drying slots. More than 10,000 beneficiaries are expected to access the project area, including artisanal fishermen and sardines processors from Bububu, Ngalawa, Mangapwani and Kama.

(5) Start of research on sardine processing and market access

ZAFICO has started a research centre at Kizimbani for production of sardines different types and quality including dry sardines spread out to dry by observing applicable standards. The centre also seeks to find markets for the commodity and ultimately find reliable markets for sardines small scale producers.

(6) Building of factories to process fish fillets and deep sea fishing

ZAFICO has succeeded in entering into a joint venture pact with ZanziFresh Inc., a US firm, for purposes of fishing in deep sea and building a fish fillets firm at the ZAFICO site in Malindi, Zanzibar Island. Again, through the new company formed by ZanziFresh Zanzibar Co., has already bought a deep sea fishing port which awaits permission to enter the country, and building the factory is expected to start early 2024.

(7) To get money for building a fish processing plant at Mkokotoni Fungurefu

ZAFICO has managed to obtain money through its International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for purposes of building a fish fillets factory at Fungurefu Mkokotoni, where the stage reached is preparing factory design drawings. In addition, preliminary works have already been conducted, including evaluation of social impacts and environment.

(8) Building a sardines processing factory at Ndagoni, Pemba

The Zanzibar Fishing Co. (ZAFICO) within three years of Dr Hussein Mwinyi



ZAFICO officials distributing fishing equipment to fishers who obtained eight meter boats through Covid-19 recovery funds in order to strengthen and grow the fisheries sector in the country.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi getting an expert's explanation from the ZAFICO operations director when inspecting a project for sardines and string fish processing plant.

has managed to obtain title deed for a fish processing area at Ndagoni, Pemba with a view to build infrastructure for fish processing, including open drying area and sardines drying machinery to dry sardines during rains. Again, drawings for factory building have been completed and ZAFICO is at the stage of looking for a contractor for the modern infrastructure.

(9) The Zero Energy project

This project is being conducted on joint venture between TAFICO and development partners from Korea. The main goal is to increase fish production as well as string fish. The project will start farms for string fish production in various areas of Unguja and Pemba. In addition, the project aims at easing the purchase of string fish by

using an online application where the client places an order and the produce is brought to where s/he is. At present the project initiation centre is located at Kizimkazi where some of the construction equipment is on site after arriving in the country.

TAFICO DIRECTIONS

TAFICO is targeting to imple-

ment all its projects within the next fifteen months in order to implement policies and promises of Honourable Zanzibar President and Zanzibar Revolutionary Council chairman on time. Expectations are that by December 2024 all factories ought to have been completed in order to provide job opportunities to the youth and develop industries in Zanzibar.

Profiling the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO) at 60 years of Zanzibar Revolution

By Guardian Reporter

THE year 1964 carried a new image for perspectives on account of the vision of leaders who propelled the revolution removing the colonial power and enabling self-rule.

In the perspective laid out by the initiators of the revolution, one of them is to push for economic, mental, cultural and political liberation.

These perspectives laid out by the field commander, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, the first President of Zanzibar are what prepared the foundation for realizing development of which Zanzibar is now priding itself with.

Any development of a country looks at the production sector as mother sector, which is buttressed by the energy sector in production of various products and ultimately earn an income for the country.

Zanzibar by a high percentage depends on tourism for its earnings where without having a reliable supply of electricity the sector will now be strong and sustainable. Electric energy is depended upon for all production sectors like big and small industries, small entrepreneurs as well as building of big hotels as they also need this source of energy. It is to say that electricity is the premise of production in many sectors.

Electricity sector development in Zanzibar

The foundations laid since 1964 which created the Zanzibar State Fuel and Power Corporation (SF&P) with the purpose of working on all issues concerning fuel along with availability and supply of electricity services in Zanzibar. It is clear that this is where electricity was made a priority in pushing forward the economic development of Zanzibar. Starting this corporation ended the presence of an authority known as the Zanzibar Electricity Board before the revolution of 1964.

At present electricity issues are supervised by the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO) which was started by law number 3 of 2006. Through this law the corporation was given the power to supervise electric energy alone instead of also being concerned with fuel as it was the case earlier.

History continued to change since staging the revolution in 1964 up to reaching 60 years of the revolution at present. From starting with using electricity generated from heavy fuel (diesel) before and after the revolution, revolution in the electricity sector quickened right after being spread in various areas outside town like Bambi, Makunduchi and Gamba for Unguja right after the completion of building progressive housing in the 1970s.

Being connected with the National Grid from Mainland Tanzania is a major success in this sector on account of increase in demand and generators being overpowered. In the 1960s Unguja Island was joined with the National Grid from Ubungu via Cape Kilomoni to resurface at Cape Fumba up to Mtoni with a cable of 45MW capacity. Also, Pemba Island was joined to the National Grid from Majani Mapana in Tanga through Mnyanjani to resurface at Cape Mkumbuu up to Weshu year 2010 with a 20MW capacity cable.

Successes of the Electricity sector

Success in implementing various programs since the event of the Zanzibar Revolution in 1964 is the only way in which the success of ZECO in electricity distribution in Zanzibar Islands. The corporation's vision underlines that to a considerable extent enabled Zanzibar economic strides in an expression demanding "having efficient electricity commerce in order to contribute to growing the Zanzibar economy."

Among the successes registered is strengthening availability and distribution of electricity in urban and rural areas.

The power supply situation in Zanzibar has been of a high standard and on the basis of various ZECO reports all wards (shehias) in Zanzibar and Pemba



have been connected to electricity services. The reports affirm that the power supply and availability has reached 90 per cent while the state of home connections stands at 60 per cent for Zanzibar.

Good policies of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government especially in relation to connect households with electricity by removing the requirement to contribute to the cost of transmission poles for all wards in Unguja and Pemba have enabled the provision of electricity services have contributed to those successes. Again, implementation of electricity supply projects in rural areas implemented by ZECO, along with implementation of development projects carried out by the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government and donor countries has helped to lift the electricity availability situation in Zanzibar.

Long term implementation of projects between the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government and Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) has hugely contributed to enabling electricity supply. Various phases have been implemented through this project, from 1986 to 2023.

Among projects that were successfully implemented is the Rural Electrification Project which, by various ways of high voltage electricity for kilovolts 11 and 33kv, and building smaller ways of 400 volts constructed between 1986 and 1995.

Similarly, the situation of electricity availability has continued to strengthen after the completion of a project for improvement of infrastructure to supply electricity in Unguja carried out by the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government and the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This project has helped in strengthen-

ing transmission lines especially for South, North and Fumba in Unguja. All the same, the project assisted in building power stations like the Mtoni station, Mwanyanya and Welezo in the years 2010 to 2013 which has added to the strength of transmission lines and removing the problem of frequent outages.

Up to 60 years of the Zanzibar Revolution among other successes is connecting electricity to all inhabited islands. Right after having connected Pemba to the National Grid in 2010 through the NORAD project phase IV (2004-2010) efforts to access small islands with habitations proceeded.

Success contributed to be registered by connecting the island of Tumbatu in 2010 and Uzi island, both connected via the same phase IV of the NORAD project.

On the side of Pemba, Kojani island was connected through the NORAD phase IV project, the Makoongwe island in 2015, Panza island in 2015, followed by Shamiyani Muambe, Fundo and Uvinje, whereas Kokota and Njau islands were connected with electricity by using solar energy in 2022 via NORAD phase V project (2016 to 2023).

On another side ZECO has succeeded in controlling electricity loss to 16.3 per cent by 2022/2023. Electricity loss occasions revenue loss to the Government on account of the power being lost without being paid for. Frequent operations in uncovering power theft, instilling awareness among users of electricity services, and implementation of the Zanzibar Energy Sector Support Project (ZESS) implemented in collaboration with the Government of Sweden had boosted operational capacity and revenue collection for the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation.

The project has brought about a major impact in the energy sector as

well as ZECO by formulating the Zanzibar Power Policy of 2009, reduction of technical and non-technical losses of electricity, public awareness and communication program, financial management systems, prepaid power meters, automatic meter reading (AMR), meter test bench, and purchase of a cable fault detector.

In efforts to tackle challenge of economic growth in Zanzibar, the electricity supply situation in Zanzibar has continued to strengthen and the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation through various improvements including laying cables for a second transmission line or the Zanzibar Interconnector Project, with a capacity for 100MW from Ubungu station on the Mainland to Mtoni in Unguja.

All the same, completion of stations built through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) 2013 and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) have helped to enhance power stability, increase power supply, to eliminate power outages and increase in investments on account of sufficient and reliable power supply.

Expectations of the power sector in later years

To increase the supply of reliable electricity, on account of the rapid rise in development and investment leading to greater use of electricity which totals 110MW up to 2023 for Unguja and 13MW for Pemba leads to the current cable capacity to be excessively burdened day after day. On the basis of ZECO reports plans for laying another cable of high voltage for Unguja and Pemba is being organized to avoid the current cables being overpowered.

To reduce excessive reliance on electric energy.

Zanzibar at present has no source of electricity generation thus it depends on electricity from Tanzania Mainland. Plans to implement the Zanzibar Energy

Sector Transformation and Access Project (ZESTA), a project to strengthen the energy sector and availability of electricity services in Zanzibar funded by the World Bank shall help to enable access to solar electricity.

It is reported that through the project expected to take six years to be implemented, it is intended to build a power generation plant at Makunduchi, building power cooling stations and electricity transmission projects at Makunduchi and Matemwe, building of transmission lines of 132 kilovolts from Makunduchi to Welezo and Welezo to Matemwe, to place a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, and connecting to electricity residents of Unguja and Pemba. The project is intended to cost \$142m up to its completion. The completion of this project shall enable Unguja Island to be able to produce 18MW of electricity by using solar energy, thus reducing the dependency of Zanzibar on electricity supply from Tanzania Mainland.

Challenges in the power sector

Despite successes registered in the Zanzibar energy sector but there are challenges including dependency on electricity supply from Tanzania Mainland by 100 percent. This leads to challenges which Tanzania Mainland faces affecting the Zanzibar side.

The pace of increased electricity use quickens day by day such that a few years from now new cables laid on the seabed will have been overpowered by use. This comes from a huge increase in industrial investment, building of big hotels and construction of multi-storey buildings coming up during the current eighth phase.

All tasks carried out by the corporation through implementation of its own programs like rural electrification and operational activities depend to a large extent revenues collected from electricity service charge. Thus the huge level of debts that the corporation owed to suppliers of equipment and ZECO not being paid as required by its clients, electricity theft and sabotage of infrastructure cripples operational activities.

Financial reports from inside the corporation show that the corporation is owed upwards of 63bn/- up to November 2023.

The 60 years of the Zanzibar Revolution is a moment for each one to exercise his or her responsibilities properly so that justice and duty prevail in bringing about success in our economy.

Bravo to the eighth phase of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government for attaining 60 years of revolution.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Cabo verde becomes third African country to eliminate malaria

By Kerry Cullinan

CABO Verde was certified as malaria-free on Friday by the World Health Organization (WHO), only the third African country to have achieved this milestone.

The country, an archipelago of 10 islands off the West African coast near Senegal, joins 43 countries including African countries Mauritius and Algeria in eliminating malaria.

Its last indigenous malaria case was recorded in January 2018.

"WHO's certification of Cabo Verde being malaria-free is testament to the power of strategic public health planning, collaboration, and sustained effort to protect and promote health," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Certification is granted when a country has shown "with rigorous, credible evidence" that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission by Anopheles mosquitoes has been interrupted nationwide for at least the past three consecutive years, and that the country has the capacity to prevent the re-establishment of transmission, according to the WHO.

"The certification as a malaria-free country has a huge impact, and it's taken a long time to get to this point," said Cabo Verde Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva. "In terms of the country's external image, this is very good, both for tourism and for everyone else. The challenge that Cabo Verde has overcome in the health system is being recognised."

Collaboration

Cabo Verde included the elimination of malaria in its national health policy in 2007. A strategic malaria plan from 2009 to 2013 focused on expanded diagnosis, early and effective treatment, and the reporting and investigating all cases.

To stem the tide of imported cases from mainland Africa, diagnosis and treatment were provided free of charge to international travellers and migrants.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the country focused on improving the quality and sustainability of vector control and malaria diagnosis, strengthening malaria surveillance - particularly at ports, airports, in the capital city and areas



Dr Tedros with Cabo Verde Prime Minister Ulisses de Pina Correia e Silva at the ceremony to mark the country's conquest of malaria.

with a risk of malaria re-establishment.

The Ministry of Health worked with other government departments focused on the environment, agriculture, transportation, and tourism. The inter-ministerial commission for vector control was chaired by the Prime Minister and ensured collaboration, including from community-based organisations and NGOs.

"This is an extraordinary accomplishment, a beacon of hope at a time when climate change threatens to slow down our progress in the global

fight against malaria," said Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund, which has assisted to fund the country's anti-malaria efforts.

"What's now crucial is that we do not lower our guard, and that we help Cabo Verde sustain this achievement and prevent the reintroduction of malaria. With this aim in mind, we will continue to fund vector control interventions and ensure quality case management and disease surveillance for another three years."

Sands also called for use of new products that

have proven to be safe and effective - such as next-generation insecticide-treated nets, insecticides, diagnostics, treatments or vaccines.

"At the same time, it is crucial to build the supply chain, human resources for health and disease surveillance systems to support quality service delivery," said Sands.

The Global Fund provides 65% of all international financing for malaria programs and has invested more than US\$17.9 billion in malaria control programs as of June 2023.

EAC commits to fostering intra-regional trade and mobilising resources in 2024

By Guardian Reporter

AS the year kicks off, the East African Community (EAC) has expressed commitment to foster intra-regional trade, resource mobilization, and the integration of new partner states.

EAC secretary general Dr Peter Mathuki said in a statement that intra-regional trade will be enhanced through optimizing the implementation of the EAC Customs Union and Common Market protocols.

In addition, partner states will work together to eliminate non-tariff barriers that are hindering intra-regional trade.

He expressed optimism that intra-regional trade in East Africa will increase by at least 40 percent during the next five years.

Dr Mathuki said the region is committed to implement-

ing the four-band Common External Tariff, to enhance trade competitiveness and boost the industrial sector.

"The region adopted a four-band structure of 0 percent, 10 percent, 25 percent, and 30 percent/35 percent. We endeavor to continue with its implementation to facilitate trade competitiveness and promote the industrial sector in the region," he added.

The 0 percent band is for raw materials and capital goods; the 10 percent band for intermediate goods not available in the region; 25 percent for intermediate goods available in the region, and 35 percent for imported

finished products available in the region. Products classified as sensitive products attract a rate of above 35 percent.

Currently, efforts are ongoing to integrate Somalia into the community, which is composed of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Sudan. Somalia signed the Treaty of Accession to join the bloc last year.

"We look forward to Somalia depositing the instruments of ratification into the community after completing their internal processes,"

Mathuki said.

He said the EAC will work with all partner states to expedite the operationalization of the financing formula for the community that was proposed in 2021 and approved last year, to maximize the community's performance.

The model requires EAC partner states to contribute equally 65 percent of the budget while the remaining 35 percent of the total budget is contributed based on the assessment of partner states' average nominal gross domestic product per capita for the previous five years, as assessed by

the World Bank.

"We are mulling on convening a sectoral council meeting with ministers in charge of finance to discuss on implementing this directive as well as a strategy to rationalize the cost of doing business in the community," Mathuki said.

Meanwhile, the World Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report released on Tuesday indicates that increasing investment is expected to drive growth in Kenya and Uganda, partly owing to improved business confidence.

Investment in Kenya is also expected to be boosted by increased credit to the private sector as the government reduces domestic borrowing.

Uganda will benefit from infrastructure investment ahead of new oil production in 2025. In Tanzania, reforms to improve the business climate are expected to lift growth.

Kenya out to pioneer high technology agriculture

By Sammy Waweru

OVER 10,000 farmers across the country are set to benefit from cutting-edge farming technology, aiming to increase food production by more than 300 per cent and address the challenges posed by climate change.

This initiative stems from Kenya's selection to spearhead the implementation of the smart farming technology, championed by Spowdi, a Swedish green innovation organisation, in collaboration with ChildFund International.

The project aims to promote sustainable smart farming practices among smallholder farmers in Africa.

The initial phase of the project will commence with a pilot supporting 250 smallholder farmers in Migori and Nyeri counties, with plans to scale up to reach 10,000 farmers across the country in the next three years.

Following the successful completion of this phase, the initiative will be replicated in other African countries, including Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Mozambique, Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia.

Chege Ngugi, ChildFund International Africa Regional Director, emphasises the need to support smallholder farmers in adopting modern techniques to enhance production.

"By adopting Spowdi's technology,

our farmers will grow more food using less water, ensuring both sufficient consumption and surplus for sale," he states.

The partnership between ChildFund International and Spowdi, formalised with a three-year agreement signed at COP28 (United Nations Climate Change Conference), aims to introduce smart farming technologies to tens of thousands of smallholder farmers, promoting enhanced food production while minimising water usage.

Farmers participating in the project will receive equipment and training in smart irrigation technology, including Spowdi's solar-powered, mobile water distribution systems.

The systems will be used for training in micro-irrigation techniques, with demonstration sites, testbeds, and training hubs established for farmers, trainers, distributors, educationists, and other partners.

Spowdi's technology boasts an impressive increase in agricultural food production by over 300 per cent, accompanied by up to 80 per cent less water usage.

Henrik Johansson, Spowdi CEO, highlights the system's potential for higher profitability, better livelihoods, and its ability to empower communities to achieve food self-sufficiency.

He emphasises, "The technology helps smallholder farmers move



away from fossil fuels, reducing the time spent on the field, which can then be allocated to other socio-economic activities".

He underlines the project's broader objectives, aiming to promote food security, economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, and address malnutrition challenges in rural sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the UN's 2022 report, "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World", about 3.1 billion people globally are unable to afford a healthy diet.

The statistics further indicates that an estimated 45 million children who are under five years of age suffer from wasting, while 149 million have stunted growth and development due to a chronic lack of

nutritious food in their diet.

In Africa, food security, hunger, and malnutrition persist as significant challenges for many households, exacerbated by traditional farming methods and the adverse impacts of climate change, including droughts and floods.

However, Africa is estimated to contribute just 4 per cent of the global Carbon (gas) emissions.

By Ish Mafundikwa

How counsellor-grandmothers of Zimbabwe are busy moving to avert mental health crisis

IN Zimbabwe, a country of 15 million people, there are fewer than 20 psychiatrists.

And mental health issues are rife, given a litany of trauma unaddressed for decades: first the horrors of British colonialism and the liberation struggle and then the Zimbabwean army's killing of thousands of people in the southwestern region of Matabeleland for allegedly supporting ex-guerrillas who turned on the government after independence.

Even today, the impact of socio-economic hardships resulting from a faltering economy, high unemployment and the highest inflation rate in the world along with an ailing health-care system have made the Southern African country fertile ground for depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, domestic violence and suicide.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Zimbabwe has one of the highest suicide rates in Africa.

Consequently, most people living with mental health issues, especially those who cannot afford the steep psychiatrist fees, do not get any help.

It is against this backdrop that psychiatrist Dr Dixon Chibanda came up with the idea of training lay health workers to counsel those struggling with mental health problems.

Two unrelated, tragic events prodded him into action. The first was the 2004 suicide of Erica, a patient he had been treating for three years, after she failed to raise the bus fare to travel to Harare for a follow-up session at the government hospital where he worked. The fare was less than \$20.

"I was stunned, heartbroken and felt guilty when her mother called me to say she had taken her own life," Chibanda says.

A few months later, the government razed tens of thousands of unauthorised residential properties across the country. The exercise, called Muram-

batsvina, or Reject the Filth, created at least 700,000 homeless people. This inevitably led to an increase in the number of people in need of mental health support.

After the much-criticized home demolitions, described by the United Nations as a violation of international law, the authorities decided there was a need for some psychological intervention.

"But there was no money or trained personnel to implement a programme. Nurses and doctors in any primary health facility are always overworked," an exasperated Chibanda says.

The rise of the grandmothers

The only people available were elderly female community health workers at Harare City Council clinics who were unskilled for psychosocial work. So Chibanda worked with the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the University of Zimbabwe to develop a pilot programme in 2006 that trained 14 lay health workers, popularly referred to as grandmothers, in evidence-based problem-solving therapy. The grandmothers on average are 50 years of age.

"Grandmothers are rooted in communities, and they are the custodians of our culture and wisdom and already play a pivotal role in problem-solving in communities," Chibanda says. Grandfathers have signed up as counsellors too, but he says they lack the commitment of the grandmothers. "They are unreliable and often leave because they have to get jobs or do other things."

The training aimed to enhance the grandmothers' listening skills, empathy and abilities to help patients gain



Zimbabwe's Friendship Bench counselling service has been replicated in African countries such as Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya and Botswana. Photo: Courtesy of the Friendship Bench.

the confidence to find solutions to their problems. It equipped them with the tools to counsel patients with common mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety. Those with more severe problems are referred to mental health professionals.

The initiative became known as The Friendship Bench because the counselling happens on made-for-purpose benches.

One of the thousands of people who have benefitted from The Friendship Bench is Blessing (not her real name), a 45-year-old mother of two who started going to the bench in 2018.

"I was down because my husband, who had relocated to South Africa to find a job, had taken another wife and had stopped sending

money home," she says. She is also HIV-positive. "I was reluctant to engage the grandmother who approached me when I went to the local clinic for treatment because I feared they would spread the word that I was on antiretrovirals."

"But I felt better after three sessions. They pointed me in the right direction. The grannies are now my friends."

How it works

The grandmothers make it clear to whomever they are counselling that The Friendship Bench does not give cash handouts. What they do is discuss possible solutions with their clients. "Sometimes the solution is as easy as getting a loan from a relative or a friend, but because the client feels overwhelmed, they cannot think about those options," says grandmother Ngabu, who counselled Blessing.

She says it usually takes three or four sessions for a client to start to see some light.

Blessing had a vending hustle going, but it was not making much money because she did not have the capital to order enough stock. That changed when 59-year-old Ngabu encouraged her to join a savings club in which women get together and save an agreed amount every week or month, and one of them gets paid out every month or week.

"My business has grown, and I make enough to send my children to school," Blessing said. "The oldest, a 22-year-old young man, finished high school and is now a plumbing apprentice. The girl, now 18, is in her final year of high school and wants to be a lawyer."

Her husband has stopped communicating with the family, but Blessing is not bothered. "My biggest worry was educating my children," she says, "I am managing that, and we are happy."

Like many others in Zimbabwe, Blessing was unaware that she was suffering from depression. "I feared I was going insane," she says.

The Friendship Bench grandmother who approached her was trained to identify patients who came to the clinic with other ailments but also had mental health issues. The minute Blessing trusted the grandmother, she went through a process several others had gone through and are still going through.

"I was invited to sit on a bench on the clinic grounds with grandmother Ngabu, who told me that what we discussed was confidential," she recalls. "She then asked me a list of questions."

The questions are on a form called the 14-point symptoms questionnaire. How patients answer determines the level of mental health problems they are experiencing. If they are suicidal or have a severe mental illness, they are referred to a more experienced grandmother, a clinical psychologist or a psy-

chiatrist.

A six-month randomized clinical trial by local and international mental health professionals in 2014 and 2015 gave the initiative a thumbs-up. In a Journal of the American Medical Association report, they concluded: "The use of lay health workers in resource-poor countries like Zimbabwe may be effective primary care-based management of common mental disorders."

From local to global need

That seal of approval has seen The Friendship Bench replicated in African countries such as Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya and Botswana with Zambia and Rwanda next. A digital version of Friendship Bench is also currently used in parts of North Africa.

The Friendship Bench has also been replicated in a few resource-rich countries, dispelling the myth that it is only for poor countries. It has also turned the widespread belief that ideas and innovations migrate only from the Global North to the Global South on its head.

Chibanda is still coming to terms with how it has gone global: "The idea was to respond to a local need. Little did I know that what we were responding to was a global need."

HelpAge USA, an international nonprofit that champions the welfare of older people in more than 80 countries, is piloting The Friendship Bench in Washington, DC, in early 2024. Cindy Cox-Roman, the organization's chief executive, tells Al Jazeera that the intervention transcends countries. "It's really about human connection. We have a mental health crisis in the US that manifests itself in many different ways, and it cuts across income and ethnicity. It affects everyone."

HelpAge's US Friendship Bench echoes the original version of the programme in Zimbabwe. It started by training 20 older people, 17 of whom are women. "This group of elderly people is interested in doing something about mental health in DC. It's all about how people can support others struggling with difficult thoughts and feelings," Cox-Roman says.

She says that while there may be more trained mental health professionals in the United States, more are needed. "Someone may seek professional mental health support but then have to wait for three months to see a professional." She hopes The Friendship Bench will provide quick access to those who need help.

The volunteer counsellors in Washington, DC, are all Black and will work in their communities. "There are fewer resources in the Black community, and there is also stigma that cuts across race, ethnicity, income, etc. Part of what we want to do is tackle that stigma by normalizing mental health struggles," Cox-Roman says

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT -56 -

By Felix Mlagezi: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezi@gmail.com

Across:

1 Rocky city in Tanzania
 5 The President in Kiswahili
 7 a person who accumulate over time
 10 used in breathing and smelling
 11 very dry

Down:

1 The begining in Kiswahili
 2 Largest state in USA
 3 part of a town
 4 out of the way
 6 reach a destination
 8 full of moaning
 9 a meeting at which people attempt to make contact with the dead
 13 a contaminating influence
 16 the length of time that a person has existed

12 Zakah
 14 Meet face to face with someone in Kiswahili
 15 a theatre where films are shown
 17 the central cavity of a hollow structure in a cell.
 18 a topic

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

BEAM	EDEMA	CECREAM
PRANA	REGENT	ASLANT
DRIVER	DAYTIME	NIAMEY
OASIS	MOA, BAD	ASSEGAI
SISAL	POSER, BE	RAIDED

Yesterday's solution

RAGED	SCARD	DIETARY	
ACER	DARK	USSRA	
THEME	DIETNAT	S	
EASILY	MEOGAELIC		
NIECE	S	CELLAR	
BESETS	S	MEAL	
ADO	ESSENE	GREY I	
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A	TAPROOM	DA	DAYS

RADIO One

RATIBA YA MIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:00 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:30 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:00 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11:30 HRS DJ SHOW 11:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS AFRIC TIZI 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRIC TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRIC TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

TIRA challenges insurers to cut premium costs to lure customers

By Guardian Correspondent, Hanang

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) commissioner general Dr Baghayo Saqware has challenged insurers to reduce premium costs to make policy packages more enticing.

Dr Saqware made the call over the weekend here when speaking at the function whereby micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) received compensation worth 270m/- following their businesses being devastated by mudflow, which wreaked havoc in the district last month.

The victims of the disaster who NMB bancassurance partner Reliance Insurance has indemnified had insured loans from the bank. Their 270m/- compensation by the insurer was formally announced at Katesh Bus Stand during the handover of the dummy cheque for the NMB customers' claims settlement, which the lender helped to expedite.

"Insurance guarantees compensation when disasters strike. Presently, various insurance services providers have come up with innovative insurance products. Let's embrace them fully so as to minimize risks," he explained.

He noted that the Sixth Phase Government was keen in ensuring insurance increases its contribution to national development efforts.

"That's why the administration of Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan is spearheading the campaign to create awareness of this vital service and emphasizing health insurance for all," he added.



TIRA commissioner general, Dr Baghayo Saqware

Martine Massawe, NMB Bancassurance head said the financial relief provided to the 18 MSMEs customers by Reliance Insurance would not have been possible if their loans had no insurance cover.

According to him, insurance is a key risk management tool in business which entrepreneurs should readily acquire to protect themselves financially. He said the service also helps them to restore operations to

normalcy after calamities like the unprecedented early December mudslides.

"Business people across the board face numerous challenges and uncertainties that call for reliable indemnification mechanisms like insurance policies, which shield them against unexpected events that could jeopardise their survival and success," the NMB top risk manager noted.

Highlighting the bank's com-

mitment to accelerate uptake of insurance in the country, Massawe said the service does not only provide financial security against operational misfortunes and difficulties but also offers policyholders the requisite peace of mind in running their businesses.

He added that the NMB bancassurance service principally seeks to support prosperity of local enterprises through highly innovative solutions and

contribute to growth of the insurance sector.

He urged Manyara Region residents and all Tanzanians at large to increase uptake of the various products the bank offers and continues to creatively design and innovate.

"We offer affordable customized and tailor-made insurance products that cater for the needs of all economic segments in society, including one whose annual premium is as low as 10,000/-," Massawe stated, adding that the bank will again this year conduct the Umebima roadshow across the country to sensitize and educate people on the importance of having insurance cover.

Hanang DC, Janeth Mayanja who lauded NMB for its insurance uptake efforts noted that the insurance literacy campaign was mostly needed there because of the low level of awareness of the service in the district. She told the gathering that in ascertaining the magnitude of the disaster, they established that most of the affected entrepreneurs did not only lack insurance coverage but were also ignorant of insurance and its benefits.

"No one ever thought that our district would be hit by such a catastrophe, therefore this should serve as a wakeup call for us to embrace insurance and start utilising the various products available in the market moving forward," DC Mayanja stressed.

A beneficiary of the Reliance compensation, Happiness Mayi who said will pocket 28.5m/- from the insurer called on the uninsured to quickly acquire coverage because it helps to minimise losses inflicted by unexpected risks.



Dr Saada Mkuya Salum (C), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning), Zanzibar Insurance Corporation operations director Arafat Haji (R) and Insurance 'ambassador' Wanu Hafidh Ameir view the new-look ZIC logo shortly after the minister launched it yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ZIC unveils change initiative to enhance customer services

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Insurance Corporation (ZIC) has introduced a comprehensive plan aimed at revitalising its public image and elevating its social and business standing. The initiative seeks to embody the organization's growth and signify notable improvements in customer service delivery.

As part of the strategic endeavor, the corporation has undertaken a series of affirmative transformations, which encompass a fresh visual interpretation of its corporate logo, the modernization of official office documentation, an overhaul of customer service provisions, and the refurbishment of its office facilities.

The official launch of the rebranded ZIC took place in Zanzibar, over the weekend presided over by Zanzibar Minister of State Office of the President, Finance and Planning Dr. Saada Mkuya Salum

Minister Mkuya commended the corporation for its proactive changes, emphasizing that the refreshed ZIC identity, coupled with advancements in service delivery, is poised to bolster public trust in the corporation and the insurance industry overall. This, in turn, is expected to encourage heightened engagement of citizens in utilizing insurance services.

"The government acknowledges the pivotal role of the insurance sector in the economic advancement and well-being of our society. We also recognize the sector's contribution to economic growth, poverty alleviation, and financial security for our citizens. Hence, the government is steadfast in its commitment to fostering collaboration with stakeholders in the insurance sector, particularly those who exhibit remarkable competence, like ZIC, to advance this industry by offering superior services to our citizens," she remarked.

Arafat Haji, ZIC managing director conveyed his enthusiasm for this pivotal move, stressing that it is firmly rooted in ZIC's commitment to reshaping its public image by optimizing its services to align with market demands and stay competitive in the insurance sector.

"As we fortify our brand and modernize our office spaces, our goal is not solely centred on updating our outward appearance but also on solidifying the quality of our services to uphold the trust our customers place

in us as an institution. Our new logo embodies the values of professionalism, reliability, and innovative thinking, aligning with ZIC's mission to safeguard, empower, and foster the growth of individuals and businesses through enhanced insurance solutions," he expounded.

The company's transformation initiative will be complemented by a specialised training program for employees, equipping them with the requisite skills and expertise to adapt to the changes and excel in efficiently utilizing technology for insurance services.

"These training programs will impart vital skills and knowledge to our employees, enabling them to offer personalized attention, provide swift customer feedback, and deliver sound professional advice to meet our clients' needs," Haji emphasized.

"Furthermore, our newly designed offices will facilitate seamless interactions with our customers, elevating the attractiveness and effectiveness of our services," he added.

Wanu Hafidh Ameir, the Insurance Ambassador in the country outlined the crucial role of insurance companies in enhancing public awareness about the significance of insurance.

She stressed that efforts to educate the public have not yielded satisfactory results, emphasizing the need for intensified educational initiatives, particularly in Zanzibar.

She commended ZIC for offering "Takaful," an insurance service aligned with Islamic religious principles, noting its importance for the local community. She called for greater integration of educational efforts within services such as Takaful to ensure recognition and acceptance among the Muslim population.

Ramadhan Mwalim Khamis, ZIC board chairman reiterated the company's steadfast commitment to being the most dependable insurance provider in the country, underlining that recent operational changes signal ZIC's dedication to not only enhancing its corporate image but also delivering unparalleled service and support to its clientele.

Khamis stated that the strategic shifts mark a significant move towards establishing ZIC as the most trusted insurance provider in the East Africa region, marking an exciting milestone in the company's 55-year history.

Energy company appoints new boss targeting African market

By Francis Kajubi

CSI Energy Group, one of the major players in the African energy sector has appointed Natacha Emilien as its Deputy Group chief executive officer as it targets at realizing the company's new era of sustainable energy transition across the continent.

Emilien who previously held the position of Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer has been promoted to the position as part of a consolidation of teamwork within CSI Energy Group.

According to a statement circulated by the company to the press at the weekend, while based in Mauritius, Emilien said shall leverage her experience and skills to positively impact the energy sector in Africa by using the strategic positioning of the country to meet the specific and diverse needs of the African continent.

By traveling regularly across Africa, she ensures a close synergy between local expertise and global perspectives, thus embodying the bridge between Mauritius and Africa in the energy sector.

In her new role, the statement notes, she will particularly focus on promoting a 'just' energy transition in Africa. This key concept, at the heart of CSI Energy Group's mission, aims to balance economic imperatives with environmental needs and social justice.

"A just energy transition not only involves a shift towards renewable and or more sustainable energy sources but also prioritizes access to electricity in regions of ten lacking adequate infrastructure," she said in the statement.

She further asserted that the just transition also benefits all lay-



CSI Energy Group's newly appointed CEO, Natacha Emilien.

ers of society more equitably, particularly small entrepreneurs and the most vulnerable communities.

This includes access to energy at affordable rates, retraining and creating local jobs in new energy industries, and collaborating with female entrepreneurs as subcontractors in the group's value chain.

With her extensive expertise and strategic vision, Emi-

lien is ideally placed to lead this complex and essential transition for a sustainable energy future in Africa.

Trained as an engineer, she has experience in petroleum and gas engineering projects and industrial risk management since 2005. Her expertise also extends to other areas, including financial services and strategic and innovation consulting. In 2023, she returned to her engineer-

ing roots by joining CSI Energy Group. Her promotion to this key role attests to CSI Energy Group's commitment to maintaining a culture that values career growth, inclusion, empowerment, and professional development in Mauritius and Africa.

"As an entrepreneur my career has been a quest for opportunities within impact-driven organizations. To this day, I am proud to be part of

the management of CSI Energy Group. Our mission is to support a just energy transition in Africa, to bring energy security, better and more equitable access to energy, sustainable and more inclusive for the continent's minorities," she said.

At the heart of CSI Energy Group's strategy is a commitment to sustainable growth and rigorous governance - aware of the need for transformative leadership in this dynamic era.

"I am particularly grateful to be part of an organization that places so much emphasis on Emilien believes in the power of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to drive innovation and positive change.

CSI Energy Group is a diversified network of Africa-focused companies providing resilient solutions in the energy sector on the continent, through 3 strategic business units; contracting (high engineering, procurement, construction), development and financing of energy transition and renewable energy projects, and investment.

With over two decades of experience in 12 countries and more than 200 successfully completed projects in renewable energy, electricity and infrastructure, oil and gas, and mining, we are committed to having a positive impact and promoting sustainable development in the region.

Rwanda flags off first Fuerte avocado shipment by sea

KIGALI

The shipment by sea of a refrigerated container holding 22.5 tonnes of Fuerte and Hass avocado varieties from Rwanda to Dubai, was flagged off on January 12 as the country continues its trial to export this much sought after fruit by an alternative means to air freight.

The development is a result of a partnership between USAID Rwanda, the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), and horticulture exporters represented by Almond Green Farm.

It is Rwanda's third avocado shipment of its kind, since the first one was made in November 2022.

The third freight container combines both Hass and Fuerte varieties of avocado

(each accounting for half of the tonnage), different from the previous ones that only had Hass variety. The first one was to Dubai, in November 2022, and the second to Rotterdam in The Netherlands, in November 2023.

Fuerte variety has a softer and smoother skin than Hass and is considered more perishable than the latter which has a hard, rough skin.

The new container has first to be transported by land to Mombasa port in Kenya, from where the avocados will travel by sea to Dubai. It is expected that the container will arrive in Dubai within 21 days.

Previously, all horticultural produce in Rwanda was shipped by airfreight due to the country's landlocked nature and lack of alternative options. However, despite being rapid, airfreight is costlier and has a higher carbon footprint than sea transport,



according to sector players.

The export services division manager at NAEB, Jean-Marie Vianney Munyaneza, said that the move is expected to improve export service and logistics while ensuring the sustainability of agri-export sector, particularly for

avocado value chain.

"We have been sending Hass avocados only, but now we are including Fuerte," he said.

"Because we are a landlocked [country], particularly from here to Mombasa or to Dar es Salaam, they

have been telling us that for Fuerte, probably we are going to have a problem [by adopting sea freight]. But today, we need to prove whether they are right or wrong," he pointed out, expressing optimism that the operation will be successful.

Evan Meyer, Deputy Director, Office of Economic Growth-USAID Rwanda, said "this humble avocado product of Rwandan rich soil and agriculture dedication is set to journey by land and sea and reach new markets for Rwandan farmers and ex-

porters".

"We are helping both farmers and exporters put more money in their pockets. With increased volumes and markets, they will increase the products," he said.

According to Robert Rukundo, the Managing Director of Almond Green Farm, and Chairperson of Horticulture Exporters Association of Rwanda (HEAR), avocados in the container belong to four firms; Almond Green Farm, Bahage Food, Afri Foods, and Expanders.

"We did this container to address two issues, one, the issue of capital because us consolidating and coming together as exporters reduces the pressure of an individual doing a whole container alone. So, that helps us to actually push volumes to the market to address barrier of cargo facility that we were having.

"The second bit is to test

whether Fuerte can actually get to the market without any challenges so that we are able to expand the produce for export," he said, pointing out that there is huge demand for avocados at the international market.

Munyaneza said horticulture sector as a whole was growing quickly thanks to concerted effort from the government, the private sector and development partners, indicating that Rwanda earned around \$58 million from horticulture exports in the 2022/2023 fiscal year, which is almost 10 times the \$6 million it got in 2012.

Talking about the avocado subsector, he said it is a new value chain, pointing out that avocado exports generated about \$6.3 million - through selling about 3,200 tonnes to international markets - which is more than 13 times the roughly \$440,000, around 2013.

Mobility market seen saving grace against unemployment

CAPE TOWN

As Africa struggles with high unemployment, analysts believe the growing mobility industry will provide new prospects for income generation for many on the continent.

According to global management firm Oliver Wyman, Africa's shared mobility sector, which includes services such as ride-hailing, scooter or e-bike rentals, and car-sharing, could double in size by 2030, offering an additional 550,000 income-generating opportunities.

This is according to the company's new research, Shared Mobility's Global Impact, which is supported by data made accessible for the first time by global mobility operator Bolt.

The research examines the existing and future global economic, social, and environmental impact



Caroline Wanjih, Bolt's director of rides in Africa.

of the growing shared mobility sector.

According to the report, the impact will be especially significant in Africa,

where growing urbanisation and a rising middle class will drive growth.

"In fact, Africa is set to be home to five of the world's

41 megacities (cities with populations in excess of 10 million people) by 2030," says the report.

According to the busi-

ness, the report demonstrates the sector's expanding impact on city economies.

It explains: "Currently worth \$4.2 billion, the sector is projected to be worth \$7.8 billion by 2030. This increase will help to create significant earning prospects. The majority of these chances are in ride-hailing driving, where African drivers earn significantly more than in equivalent employment in Africa (up to 130% in South Africa and Nigeria). The most significant economic impact of shared mobility is the establishment of earning opportunities."

While the survey acknowledges that there is still work to be done to address the absence of employment benefits for drivers in many areas, it claims that, in addition to greater levels of income, drivers report high levels of job satisfaction.

"Ride-hailing already helps to improve the efficiency of transport systems, but it is critical that the services benefit everyone," says Caroline Wanjih, Bolt's director of rides in Africa.

The study also emphasises the sector's importance in providing affordable and accessible transportation, particularly in African countries where vehicle ownership remains beyond reach for many people.

"Shared mobility is already set to rise from 3% to 7% of journeys by 2030," says Dr Andreas Nienhaus, Oliver Wyman's partner for Automotive and Mobility, Climate and Sustainability.

"The African market is the most interesting we study. It retains significant challenges, but shared mobility can support ongoing infrastructure development to radically change the journey mix"

New study by Workday pointing to gaps in AI trust in the workplace

PRETORIA

Workday, a global software company, believes business executives and employees lack trust in the responsible development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Workday has released its most recent global study, which concluded that an AI trust gap has emerged in the workplace.

The global study, Closing the AI Trust Gap, was the outcome of a poll commissioned by Workday and conducted by FT Longitude between November and December 2023.

The study included 1,375 company leaders and 4,000 employees from 15 countries in three major regions: North America, Asia-Pacific and Japan, and Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

According to Workday, this breakdown provides a holistic view of the organisational hierarchy, showing the perspectives of leadership and the larger employee population.

Workday has launched the report ahead of the World Economic Forum annual meeting, which will take place in Davos, Switzerland, from January 15 to 19, 2024.

According to the company, business leaders and employees agree that AI offers significant opportunities for business transformation; however, there is a lack of trust that it will be deployed responsibly, with employees expressing even greater scepticism than their leadership counterparts.

Key findings include: 62 percent of corporate leaders (C-suite or direct reports) support AI. This figure is significantly lower among employees, at 52 percent, according to the survey.

23 percent of employees are unsure whether their business prioritises their interests over its own when deploying AI.

70% of corporate leaders think that AI should be designed in a way that allows for easy human review and involvement, whereas 42 percent of employees believe their organisation lacks a clear grasp of which systems should be totally automated and which require human interaction.

Furthermore, three out of four employees claim their organisation is not collaborating on AI legislation, and four out of five say their company has yet to offer standards on responsible AI use.

"There's no denying that AI has enormous potential for commercial revolution. However, our research demonstrates that leaders and employees lack confidence in and comprehension of their organisations' goals around AI implementation in the workplace," said Jim Stratton, Workday's chief technology officer. "To help close this trust gap, organisations must adopt a comprehensive approach to AI responsibility and governance, with a lens on policy advocacy to help strike the right balance between innovation and trust."

Traded coffee volumes, prices rebound on fresh crop auction

NAIROBI

Traded volumes and prices at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) have improved, buoyed by inflows of higher-quality fresh crop and deliveries of old stocks by co-operative societies from the Mount Kenya region.

Data from the NCE show volumes offered for sale at the exchange improved from 3,773 bags on August 15 which represented the 30th auction of the 2022/23 season to 20,199 bags on December 13.

Traders linked the improvement to bigger deliveries from Kirinyaga and Nyeri growing zones and inflows of batches of fresh crops from the October-December main coffee crop season in Kenya.

"There is quality fresh crop entering the auction as part of the main season which has helped improve prices. Then we are also witnessing a bump in volumes because of releases of old stocks that had been held by co-operatives in Kirinyaga and Nyeri," a trader said.

"The groups in Nyeri and Kirinyaga have released big volumes of crop for the third consecutive auction."

Over the same period, the NCE has registered an improvement in volumes of coffee beans sold from 40 percent of bags offered for sale to 84 percent. There was mixed performance in the prices of the various grades of the beverage in the review period.

The average price of premium coffee beans, AA grade, declined to Sh38, 377.58 (\$240.10) from Sh39, 952 (\$249.95 per 50-kilogramme bag).

That of AB grade meanwhile rose from Sh29, 818.15 (\$186.55) to Sh30,281.68 for similar quantity.

The NCE now has an average of 18 buyers at each auction and 10 sellers



Coffee traders at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange.

compared to 17 buyers and only four sellers as at August 15.

The exchange has credited the improvement in activity to the return of confidence among market participants, along with improving global coffee prices.

"By now, the market has gained confidence in the new way of doing things and we are seeing stability in participation. We have seen about 40 buyers being boarded onto the exchange and about half of them have made successful bids," NCE acting chief executive officer Lisper Ndung'u told this publication yes-

terday.

"Global prices are also rising, meaning that even offer prices on the floor of the NCE have also gone up."

The return of activity at the coffee exchange is in stark contrast with the months of August and September when volumes and prices fell sharply as traders and buyers kept off the market amid confusion over the issuance of trade permits. Auction volumes in August for instance fell by 95.62 percent to 192 tonnes from 4,380 tonnes a year prior. Volumes brought to auction

tanked as contracted millers struggled to secure licenses issued by county governments which affected the flow of coffee volumes to the exchange.

The low volumes had seen international buyers staying off the market which in turn reduced the demand for Kenyan coffee.

Coffee millers were considering laying off workers to minimize their costs as some of their trading permits were frozen.

The turnaround from the market turmoil which saw trading on the NCE partially halted in early August

seemingly points to early successes of coffee sector reforms which were steered by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

Among the reforms carried out in the Capital Markets (Coffee) Exchange Regulations 2020 was the introduction of the direct settlement system which allowed for expedited and transparent payment of coffee sales proceeds.

The Co-operative Bank of Kenya won the direct settlement system contract-DSS but initially faced resistance from some players.

More reforms for the sector have been lined up including the transitioning of regulatory and commercial roles held by the Agriculture and Food Authority and the Coffee Board of Kenya.

The NCE has credited the approval of 11 grower affiliated brokerage companies by the Capital Markets Authority as a positive step in the restoration of market confidence as activity on the exchange continues to normalise.

"The biggest benefit is that growers now have the opportunity to present their own coffee for sale on the (NCE) floor," added Ms Ndung'u.

The government has taken credit for the improved activity at the NCE terming the rebound as testament to working sector reforms to the benefit of coffee producers.

"The good news is that our coffee product has attracted big interest across the globe with some 32 companies now participating in the NCE translating to good prices. Our farmers are the biggest beneficiaries as good prices continue to be recorded at the coffee exchange," Co-operatives Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui noted previously.

WORLD

UN peacekeeping mission starts withdrawal from DR Congo

KINSHASA

UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), commonly known as MONUSCO, has started withdrawal, said Christophe Lutundula, DRC deputy prime minister and foreign Minister.

MONUSCO'S disengagement will take place in three phases, starting with a complete withdrawal of the military and police components of MONUSCO from the eastern province of South Kivu by April 30, according to a statement issued on Saturday after the joint press conference held by Lutundula and Bintou Keita, UN envoy in the DRC and head of the UN peacekeeping mission.

The second and third phases of the mission's drawdown provide for withdrawal from North Kivu and Ituri, two provinces plagued by armed conflicts, with elaborated evaluation in between, reads the statement.

"We are fighting for the withdrawal to be effective at the end of December 2024," said Lutundula.

"After 25 years of presence, MONUS-

CO will definitely leave the DRC no later than the end of 2024," according to the statement.

On Dec 19, 2023, the UN Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted Resolution 2717, setting out a comprehensive disengagement plan that includes three phases and the gradual handover of responsibility to the government. However, the UNSC has not yet set a final date for the complete withdrawal.

The UN peacekeeping mission has been present in the country since 1999. It is one of the largest and most expensive in the world, with an annual budget of around \$1 billion.

"For the first time, the UNSC adopts a mandate asking MONUSCO to begin its withdrawal from the DRC. This is a historic moment. We will spare no effort with our Congolese partners to bring this process to a successful conclusion. I welcome the desire of the Congolese authorities to make the disengagement of MONUSCO a model of successful transition of a UN peacekeeping operation," said Keita.

Xinhua



MONUSCO blue helmet deployed near Kibumba, north of Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, on Jan 28, 2022. AP

Russia's UN envoy slams strikes on Yemen as flagrant violation of UN Charter

UNITED NATIONS

THE US and British strikes on Houthi sites in Yemen are an "obvious armed aggression" and constitute a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter, Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya said on Friday.



"The situation is crystal clear. Actions of the so-called coalition are in breach of Article 2 of the UN Charter. This is another military aggression of the collective West to add to the lengthy list of their 'raids' against the long-suffering Middle East," the Russian envoy told a UN Security Council meeting that discussed the strikes delivered by the United States and Great Britain against Houthi facilities in Yemen.

According to Nebenzya (pictured), the White House's "pseudo-legal justifications do not stand up to any criticism."

Nor have the strikes on Yemen anything to do with the right to self-defense, he added. "Besides, there was no authorization by the UN Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter to use force," he lamented.

After the escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the Gaza Strip, the Houthis warned that they would launch strikes on Israeli territory while barring ships associated with the Jewish state from passing through the waters of the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait until Tel Aviv ceased its military operation against Palestinian radical group Hamas in the embattled enclave.

According to estimates by the US Defense Department's Central Command (CENTCOM), the Yemeni rebel group has attacked more than 20 vessels and civilian ships in the Red Sea since mid-November.

On Thursday night, the armed forces of the United States and the United Kingdom delivered air strikes on rebel-held positions in several Yemeni cities, using aircraft, warships and submarines.

US President Joe Biden said the military action was ordered in response to "unprecedented Houthi attacks" on shipping in the Red Sea and that the strikes were delivered in self-defense.

PM Modi gifts his shawl to girl during Pongal celebrations in Delhi

NEW DELHI

IN an overwhelming gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday gifted his shawl to a young girl who performed during the Pongal celebrations at the residence of Union Minister of State L. Murugan in the national capital.



A young singer performed at the event and later touched PM Modi's feet after which the PM gifted her his shawl as a special gesture.

Earlier today while extending greetings on Pongal, PM Modi said that the festival depicts the emotion of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.'

The PM said this while attending the Pongal celebrations at the residence of Union Minister of State (MoS) L. Murugan in the national capital.

"The country celebrated the festival of Lohri yesterday. Some people are celebrating Makar Sankranti today and some people will celebrate tomorrow; Magh Bihu is also coming. I extend my greetings to the countrymen for these festivals," he said.

PM Modi further said that he felt like celebrating Pongal with his kith and kin.

"Wish you all a very happy Pongal! On this pious occasion, I wish happiness, prosperity and contentment to flow in your lives. Today, I feel like I am celebrating Pongal with my kith and kin," he said.

Telangana Governor T. Chandrababu Naidu was also present on the occasion.

"The festival of Pongal depicts the emotion of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. This emotion of unity will give strength to the 'Viksit Bharat' of 2047," the PM said.

He further said that all the festivals are, in one way or other, connected to agriculture.

"Saint Tiruvallur has said that 'Good harvest, educated men, and honest traders together build the nation'. It's a tradition that on Pongal the first harvest is offered to God. At the heart of this tradition lie our farmers. In fact, all our festivals are, in one way or other, connected to agriculture," he said.

ANI

Mainland spokesperson comments on Taiwan election results

BEIJING

A Chinese mainland spokesperson on Saturday commented on the outcomes of Taiwan leadership and legislature elections.

Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said the results reveal that the Democratic Progressive Party cannot represent the mainstream public opinion on the island.

Noting that Taiwan is China's Taiwan, Chen said that the elections will not change the basic landscape and development trend of cross-strait relations, will not alter the shared aspiration of compatriots across the Taiwan Strait to forge closer ties, and will not impede the inevitable trend of China's reunification.

"Our stance on resolving the

Taiwan question and realizing national reunification remains consistent, and our determination is as firm as rock," Chen said.

"We will adhere to the 1992 Consensus that embodies the one-China principle and firmly oppose the separatist activities aimed at 'Taiwan independence' as well as foreign interference," Chen said.

He said the mainland will work with relevant political parties, groups and people from various sectors in Taiwan to boost cross-strait exchanges and cooperation, enhance cross-strait integrated development, jointly promote Chinese culture, and advance the peaceful development of cross-strait relations as well as the cause of national reunification.

Xinhua



Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, PRC (File photo)

国务院台湾事务办公室

中国台湾网 taiwan.cn

US climate envoy John Kerry plans to resign shortly, likely to join Biden campaign

WASHINGTON

US climate envoy John Kerry is planning to step down from his post by this spring after serving in the position for three years at the helm of US climate diplomacy under the Biden administration, CNN reported citing a source close to Kerry on Saturday.

The 80-year-old former secretary of state and Democratic nominee for president led US negotiations at

three international climate summits, the most recent of which was held in Dubai.

CNN reported the source close to Kerry (pictured) said he will still attend the World Economic Forum in January and is expected to attend the Munich Security Conference in February.

Kerry specifically prioritised restarting international climate talks between the US and China, and was key in negotiating the November Sunnyslands agreement, a wide-ranging climate agreement between the two countries before COP28.

Axios first reported Kerry was step-



ping down and intending to join the Biden campaign. CNN has reached out to the Biden campaign and the White House for comment.

Before joining the Biden administration, Kerry had long worked on climate issues. As secretary of state, he played a key role in negotiating the Paris agreement, which was adopted by nearly

200 nations in 2015 and was aimed at addressing the negative impacts of climate change.

And in 2019, Kerry co-founded a bipartisan initiative of world leaders and celebrities to combat the climate crisis called World War Zero.

Kerry also served alongside Joe Biden in the Senate for decades. He was first elected to the Senate to represent Massachusetts in 1984 after serving as lieutenant governor of the state under Gov. Michael Dukakis.

In 2004, Kerry won the Democratic nomination for president before losing the general election to incumbent

President George W. Bush. In 2009, when Biden became vice president, Kerry took over his role as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was nominated to serve as secretary of state by Barack Obama in 2012.

Kerry also served in the Navy in Vietnam as a gunboat officer on the Mekong Delta and was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

ANI

THE U.S. domineering and coercive practices in technology are continuing escalating. The U.S. Department of Commerce recently announced an investigation into the U.S. semiconductor supply chain and national defense industrial base in the name of reducing national security risks, to assess the extent of their reliance on Chinese chips.

It was also reported that the U.S. has even requested Dutch chip equipment company ASML to halt exports of lithography machines to China before the relevant "bans" take effect.

While the U.S. claims to advocate fair competition, it constantly sets obstacles for the technological development of other countries. The country always groundlessly accuses other countries of engaging in "economic coercion," while its

US 'small yard, high fence' strategy will eventually backfire

own economic coercion has seriously harmed the interests of even its allies.

According to reports, the investigation initiated by the Bureau of Industry and Security under the U.S. Department of Commerce focuses on traditional chips that are not cutting-edge but still crucial to the industry.

Unlike previous U.S. restrictions on chip sales to China, this time it will scrutinize the usage and procurement of traditional chips manufactured by China in key U.S. industries.

To restrict China's acquisition of advanced semiconductors, the U.S. is implementing a strict policy that prohibits both the sales and purchases of relevant products, which

severely impedes the normal trade exchanges between chip, chip equipment, materials, and component companies from various countries.

This harms the legitimate rights and interests of not only Chinese enterprises but also semiconductor companies from other countries, including the U.S. It is typical economic and technological bullying and a serious violation of international trade rules.

The semiconductor industry is highly globalized, and the formation and development of its supply chain is the result of market forces and corporate choices. The United States, against market laws and the will of companies, is attempting to block the semiconductor supply

chain with a "small yard and high fence" strategy, severely disrupting the landscape of the global semiconductor industry and seriously impacting the security and stability of international industrial and supply chains.

According to data from the U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association, China's semiconductor procurement in 2022 amounted to \$180 billion, accounting for over 1/3 of the global total and making China the largest single market worldwide. The Chinese market is irreplaceable, and withdrawing from it is not a feasible option. This is a consensus among global semiconductor companies.

The U.S. arbitrary act of isolating the Chinese market will not suc-

ceed and will eventually backfire. The U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association pointed out that excessive unilateral control may harm the U.S. semiconductor ecosystem.

Colette Kress, chief financial officer of U.S. chip company NVIDIA believes that long-term bans on exporting AI chips to China would cause the U.S. chip industry to permanently lose many opportunities. The U.S. act to suppress and contain China's technological development at the sacrifice of harming itself is a manifestation of its deep-rooted Cold War mentality. By excluding China from critical supply chains through state behaviors and restricting China's ascent to higher segments of the value chain, the U.S. is indeed po-

litizing, instrumentalizing and weaponizing economic, trade, and technological issues to serve the hegemonic purpose of containing China's growth.

The U.S. disguises its "small yard and high fence" strategy as an approach to safeguarding national security, and finds various excuses to coerce other countries into implementing technological blockades against China. This has raised widespread concerns and criticism. Some said the U.S. efforts to weaponize its technological superiority in order to confront China seem to be putting strain on its alliances.

According to a report by The New York Times, government officials in European countries are concerned that preventing European companies from entering China, one of the world's largest and most dynamic technology

markets, could harm the interests of these enterprises.

Development of China is innovation-driven. Stifling China's technological progress is nothing but a move to contain China's high-quality development and deprive the Chinese people of their right to development. China's development and growth, driven by its own inherent logic, will not be stopped by external forces.

The Chinese nation has the proud tradition of standing up for itself. Suppression and containment will only strengthen the will and boost the morale of the Chinese people.

The restrictions imposed by the U.S. on China's technological innovation will only strengthen China's determination to achieve high-level self-reliance in science and technology.

People's Daily

No peace in sight as Israel-Hamas conflict enters 100th day

GAZA/JERUSALEM

TENS of thousands of families in both Israel and Palestine are still grieving the loss of their loved ones on Sunday, 100 days after Hamas's unexpected attack on southern Israel triggered a massive Israeli military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

Despite the repeated calls from the international community for an end to the ongoing violence and a return to peace, the Israel-Hamas conflict, which has shaken the Middle East's geopolitical landscape, shows no signs of abating anytime soon.

ISRAELI ARMY'S NEW PHASE

More than three months into the conflict, Israel withdrew some of its troops from the Gaza Strip in response to U.S. demands to scale back large-scale ground and aerial operations and protect civilians in the Palestinian enclave.

On Jan. 7, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told the Wall Street Journal that the Israeli army will soon switch from the "intense maneuvering phase of the war" to "different types of special operations" in northern Gaza.

Israel's ground operations and bombardment, while less intense than before, are still going on, with a focus on the southern region of the Gaza Strip, where a large part of the population is stranded after being displaced from the north and elsewhere.

The number of injured Palestinians has so far surpassed 60,000 and the Palestinian death toll in the enclave, already over 23,700, is on the rise, according to figures released by the Gaza-based Health Ministry.

Under U.S. pressure, the Israeli army is seeking to gradually reduce the intensity of military operations

in the Gaza Strip in 2024, but the duration of the conflict may be lengthened, said Jerusalem-based Palestinian political analyst Firas Yaghi.

During a visit to the West Bank on Jan. 7, Herzli Halevi, chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), said the conflict in Gaza would likely last throughout 2024.

He also warned of a possible flare-up in violence "on other fronts, especially the West Bank," and said the IDF would increase "the pressure it exerts" on Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where it has traded fire with Hezbollah, a Shiite military group, in recent months.

MOUNTING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

As the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip worsens, Israel is coming under increasing pressure both internationally and domestically.

As entire neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip have been leveled by the Israeli bombardments, about 1.9 million of Gaza's 2.3 million people are displaced, according to statistics released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

On Dec. 22, the UN Security Council passed a key resolution aimed at boosting the flow of humanitarian supplies into Gaza after a week of negotiations and substantial amendments.

It followed a resolution adopted on Dec. 12 by the UN General Assembly demanding an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in Gaza.

As for the United States, with the 2024 presidential election expected to be a tight race, the administration under President Joe Biden is expected to put more pressure on Israel to win voters who are unhappy about the U.S. stance on the Gaza conflict, said Yaghi.



Israeli troops conduct military operations in Gaza Strip, on Jan. 11, 2024. (Photo by Gil Cohen Magen/Xinhua)

In Israel, many people believe that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's efforts to push for judicial reform have caused chaos in the country and given Hamas an opportunity to attack and that the way the government and military handled issues such as rescuing hostages is not satisfactory.

Despite prolonged Israeli air strikes and ground operations, 132 of the 253 hostages that Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups kidnapped on Oct. 7 are still being held in the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, Palestinian militants are still capable of firing rockets into Israel.

In the face of the international community's pressure and criticism, Israel is looking for alternative plans to achieve its goals by fighting in specific areas of the Gaza Strip, said Yaghi.

EXPANSION OF CONFLICT

Since the beginning of this

year, tensions in the Middle East have escalated as a result of the spillover of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

On Jan. 2, an Israeli drone strike on Beirut's southern suburbs of Dahiyeh, a Hezbollah stronghold, killed Saleh al-Aroui, deputy chairman of Hamas's political bureau, alongside six other members of the Palestinian militant group.

After the strike, Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah warned the next day that the Iran-backed group "cannot be silent."

He denounced the attack as "a dangerous crime," vowing revenge and threatening to meet any wider Israeli operation with unrestrained warfare.

Eyal Pinko, an intelligence and national security expert at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies in Israel, said Israel's strikes on senior Hamas leaders inside Lebanon cannot

pass in silence.

"Hezbollah will take revenge one way or another, they must, they have to, and it won't be another way," he said.

Meanwhile, local militia in Iraq escalated attacks on U.S. military bases in Iraq and Syria, triggering a retaliatory U.S. strike in Baghdad on Jan. 4 that killed a leader of the Harakat al-Nujaba group operating in both Iraq and Syria. Another worrying development happens in the Red Sea.

The Houthi military group, which has been fighting a civil war with Yemen's government forces, launched drone and rocket attacks in the Red Sea on cargo ships that have links to Israel to retaliate Israeli attacks on Gaza.

The Houthi attacks prompted the United States and Britain to stage air strikes on the targets of the military group on Thursday and Saturday. The Houthi leadership vowed to launch retaliatory attacks soon.

"We are witnessing a cycle of violence that risks grave political, security, economic, and humanitarian repercussions in Yemen and the region," Khaled Khiari, UN assistant secretary-general for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, told the Security Council on Friday.

Xinhua

Senior Russian official lauds media role amid information war on Russia

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko praised the important role of Russian media amid the large-scale information war being waged against the country.

"Over the past two years of a major information war on Russia by unfriendly countries, the role of the media has become especially important.

For it is journalists, reporters and editors of television channels, the press and news agencies who cover the situation in the country and the world in a prompt and reliable manner," the senior Russian official said in his message of greetings on Russian Press Day.

He also lauded the media for providing the right guidance to the audience while protecting it from what he said was a flow of bogus stories.

Russia celebrates the professional holiday of reporters of periodicals and media workers on January 13.



China's rail transit industry weaves huge net of manufacturing

HIGH-SPEED trains have greatly facilitated the transport for the Chinese people.

To produce a Fuxing high-speed train, it takes joint efforts from more than 2,100 enterprises.

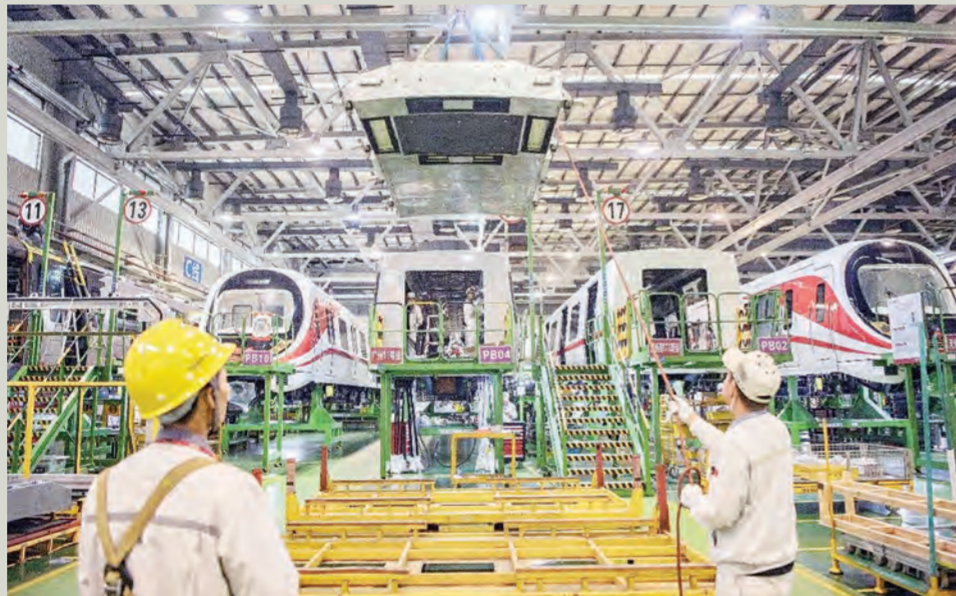
The over 40,000 components needed to assemble a set of bullet trains are produced by suppliers from some 20 provinces, which forms a complex web of interdependent businesses.

China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) is the "locomotive" leading China's rail transit industrial chain, which covers high-speed trains, as well as light rail and subway products. The company drives the integrated development of over 6,000 small- and medium-sized enterprises in upstream and downstream sectors. This has resulted in the formation of distinctive rail transit industrial clusters in places such as Hunan province's Zhuzhou and Sichuan province's Chengdu.

China's high-speed train has amazing stability. Even a coin can be balanced on its edge on a moving bullet train.

Such high performance relies heavily on the crucial role played by shock absorbers. After nearly 10 years of joint efforts, CRRC and Zhuzhou Lince Group Co., Ltd., one of the biggest manufacturers and suppliers of rail transit equipment parts in China, have finally made a breakthrough in this field.

According to Qi Ran, deputy director of the supply chain management center at CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive Co., Ltd., domestically produced shock absorbers are now among the best in the world.



Urban rail transit trains are assembled in a workshop of CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive Co., Ltd. in central China's Hunan province. (People's Daily Online/Li Jian)

CRRC chairman Sun Yongcai said that CRRC has extended its rich experiences in technological innovation as well as R&D management in urban rail transit equipment manufacturing to over 300 companies along the industrial chain, guiding them to improve their technologies, techniques and product quality. As a result, a group of companies with unique expertise and outstanding capabilities have emerged in their respective fields.

Rail transit is one of the most diverse categories in the equipment manufacturing industry, encompassing a rich industrial chain, value chain, and market chain. Zhuzhou is home to over 400 companies engaged in the sector, which makes it the world's largest hub for the rail transit equipment manufacturing industry.

In this city, the time it takes to enjoy a cup of coffee is enough to produce over ten thousand components for an electric locomotive.

Zhuzhou is able to locally supply over 80 percent of the parts, components, and services needed by the rail transit equipment manufacturing industry, Qi said.

The advantage of industrial clustering not only deepens cooperation among companies along the industrial chain but also brings strong resilience to the entire industry, Qi added.

Last year, subway trains produced in China were put into operation in Türkiye. These trains were manufactured in Zhuzhou in just six months, much faster than the owner's ex-

pectations.

In 2022, China's first retro-style double-decker tourist tram exported to South Korea, also manufactured in Zhuzhou, achieved local production of all key components and was delivered in just four and a half months.

In Chengdu, rail transit industry clusters are also thriving, with 160 upstream and downstream companies settling in, achieving an industry aggregation rate of 60 percent.

On Shimu Road of the city, streams of trucks can always be seen transporting materials and equipment from the north side to the south side. On the south side, there is CRRC Chengdu Co., Ltd., while the north side is home to various supporting enterprises.

The clustering of supply and demand on both sides of the road facilitates rapid technological exchange, helping Chengdu's rail transit industry transition from being scattered and small to becoming a strong whole. As a result, the city has emerged as the fifth-largest base for rail transit components in China.

By adhering to innovation and continuously striving for high-end and intelligent development, leading enterprises are driving supporting companies towards higher quality.

A Zhuzhou-based new material technology company has developed a "golden film" for trains - a high-performance polyimide film. This polyimide film is the world's best-performing film insulation material. It can be applied in the manufacturing of not only rail transit equipment, but also crucial components in electronic products like smart

phones and computers, as well as satellites and aircraft.

Thanks to the support from CRRC, this type of polyimide film is now massively produced in China and widely used in various fields such as offshore wind power generators and oil drilling motors.

In China, large, medium, and small enterprises are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, resulting in a series of exemplary cases of integrated innovation.

For instance, Syngenta Group, a provider of agricultural science and technology under Sinochem Holdings, has established a supply chain innovation center to conduct seed production research, driving technique innovation throughout the industry and reducing costs for seed suppliers in the industrial chain.

Additionally, Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, Ltd. (COMAC) is exploring a model of integrated development for the entire composite materials industrial chain in large aircraft manufacturing. Leveraging platforms like the COMAC Innovation Valley, it brings together high-quality domestic and international aviation companies, as well as upstream and downstream supporting enterprises, to promote the translation of technologies and enhance collaboration.

The joint construction of projects, resource sharing, risk sharing, and benefit integration among large, medium, and small enterprises are effectively enhancing the resilience and security of China's industrial chain and supply chain.

People's Daily

Yemen's Houthis vow more attacks against Israel amid strikes

SANAA / ADEN

YEMEN'S Houthi rebels said Saturday that the recent airstrikes on their positions by the United States and Britain will not deter them from continuing their attacks on Israel, vowing to launch more strikes soon.

In a statement, the rebels, who control much of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa and the strategic Red Sea port city of Hodeidah, denounced the airstrikes as a violation of Yemen's sovereignty and a "blatant aggression" in support of Israel.

The Houthi group vowed to continue its military operation against the "Israeli enemy" in the statement carried by the state-run Saba news agency.

A US Navy destroyer fired a Tomahawk cruise missile before Saturday dawn at a radar site in northern Sanaa, according to the US Central Command. The strike followed a series of similar attacks by the US and British naval and air forces a day earlier.

The US and Britain said their strikes were aimed at deterring the Houthi group from launching further attacks on international shipping in the Red Sea, a vital waterway for global trade.

The rebel group has recently intensified attacks on what it called "Israeli-linked ships" passing through the Red Sea to show support for the Palestinians and to pressure Israel to end its attacks and blockade on the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, a Houthi official said Saturday that US and British forces flew spy drones "for hours" over the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah, where conflicting reports of a new airstrike emerged.



Yemenis participate in a rally in Sanaa, Yemen, on Friday. Thousands of supporters of the Yemeni Houthi rebel group held a rally in Sanaa to protest the US-Britain joint retaliatory airstrikes on the group's camps. XINHUA

Ali Ahmed Kassar, the Houthi deputy governor of Hodeidah, told Xinhua by phone that his group saw more spy drones over the city from early morning to evening. He also denied reports from local and international media over new airstrikes on Houthi sites in Hodeidah.

Earlier, local media said a navy base near the port was hit by US-led coalition planes. Residents told Xinhua they heard loud explosions and ambulance sirens. They also said the Houthis deployed heavily in Hodeidah neighborhoods after the blast.

The Houthi official made no comments on the explosions.

The Houthis have reportedly used the Ras Kutheb base to attack commercial and military ships in the vital maritime region.

Hodeidah, on the Red Sea coast, is a strategic city with one of Yemen's largest ports. The Houthis have controlled Hodeidah since 2014, and the port is a lifeline for humanitarian aid and commercial supplies entering Yemen.

Earlier Saturday, UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg urged all parties to show restraint amid a dangerous escalation in regional tensions.

On Friday, the US and Britain launched strikes on Houthi targets in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa and other areas. The strikes were in response to the Houthis' attacks in the Red Sea on what they called "Israeli-linked ships" to pressure Israel to stop its assaults in the Gaza Strip.

The civil war in Yemen has raged since 2015, causing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with millions facing famine.

Xinhua

Athletes now urged to prepare for 2024 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon



Runners are pictured taking part in the past Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon held in Moshi.

By Guardian Correspondent

WITH almost one month left before this year's edition of the prestigious Kilimanjaro International Marathon takes place in Moshi, the main sponsor for the 42km race, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, has called on participants to embark on final touches and gear up for the big event.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Catherine Lyakurwa, said there are few days left, hence, participants, especially those participating in the 42km race, should prepare well.

"This is a long race that requires a lot of preparation. We know participants have been training hard and we now have almost just one month to patch up things ready for the big day," she said.

She said it was interesting how most participants have in recent years gained interest in the 42 km race meaning that the event has recorded massive growth.

"Soon the race numbers will sell

out so I urge those who have not registered to do so because once entries are full there will be no more registration," she warned.

She said the brand will continue working hand in hand with the organizers and other sponsors to ensure the 2024 edition is successful and memorable.

"We have been sponsors for 22 years now and this is because of the relevance of the event to the business and the country in general," she said.

The Brand Manager also called on other sponsors to prepare for the corporate challenge where the sponsors will field runners in different races and those with the best finishing times on average will be declared the winners by the organizers.

She thanked other sponsors for the cooperation so far, adding that were it not for combined efforts between sponsors and organizers, the event would not have achieved a lot.

Meanwhile, organizers of the 2024 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon have reminded participants that once entries are

full, the registration process for the filled entries will be closed and participants will not be able to register.

A statement issued by the organizers said there were only a few entries left for the 42km and 21km races.

"Once these are full, we will close the registration process and embark on number collection early next month," the organizers' statement disclosed.

Participants can register through Tigopesa by dialing *150*01#, then press 5 LKS, then press 5 (Ticket), and follow instructions to finalize registration or through the official website www.kilimanjaromathon.com.

"This is applicable for all race categories including the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Full Marathon, Tigo Kili Half Marathon, and the 5km Fun Run," the statement noted in part.

The organizers further stated that registration has to close way before the D-day on February 25, 2024, when the 22nd edition will be held at the Moshi Cooperative University to ensure the event sticks within the official world athletics regulations

of a safe carrying capacity.

This will, according to the organizers, ensure runners enjoy their time out on route without being overcrowded to ensure all logistics in terms of the hydration and medical support needed on the route and at the finish in line with the numbers expected are all taken care of.

This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager - 42km, Tigo - 21km, and Gee Soseji - 5km while water table sponsors are Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Sugar, TotalEnergies, and CRDB Bank.

Official partners are KiliMedair, Garda World Security, CMC Automobiles, and Salinero Hotel, official suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

The event will take place at the Moshi Cooperatives University ground on February 25 and will play host to an IAAF route-measured 42km race, a 21km race, and a 5km Fun Run.

The event is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.



Ivory Coast's ASEC Mimosas midfielder, Sankara Karamoko.

ASEC Mimosas agrees to negotiate with Yanga for Karamoko

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

IVORY Coast's ASEC Mimosas has agreed to hold formal talks with Young Africans SC of Tanzania for the transfer of forward Sankara Karamoko to the latter at the end of the season.

However, the talks to sign the 20-year-old forward will focus on the major transfer window, not the current one.

According to a source from Ivory Coast, ASEC Mimosas has made it difficult to allow Karamoko to leave now due to the outfit's need for him in this season's CAF Champions League.

The source added that Yanga has been permitted to negotiate with ASEC Mimosas about the transfer of the star during the major registration window for the benefit of both the team and the player.

"They said that Karamoko's deal can't happen now because they want him to help them in continental competition, they are currently in a good position to qualify for the next round," the source said.

"For a player who is currently leading the goal scorers' chart in the CAF Champions League, they want to see if he can fulfill his dream of becoming the top goal scorer of the tournament, so they want to give him more chances instead of selling him," he noted.

"So, they said that they can only do business at the major transfer window, it is not possible now," the source said.

Young Africans' Media and Communication Manager, Ally Kamwe, said: "We have seen that Karamoko is a good striker, just like Yao, Pacome Zouzoua, and other players who have come from ASEC Mimosas."

"Sankara can as well come to Young Africans because ASEC Mimosas is our friend and we can do good business with the outfit," Kamwe noted.

Karamoko is one of the strikers that Young Africans was looking to sign in the current transfer window, along with Leonel Ateba of Cameroon and Glody Kilangalanga.

The ASEC Mimosas striker is the

top goal scorer in this season's CAF Champions League with four goals and one assist, while his team is in a good position to qualify for the quarterfinals of the tournament.

Young Africans require a proficient striker to bolster the squad's performance in the high-profile CAF inter-club competition and the domestic league.

Fiston Mayele emerged as a highly accomplished striker during the previous season, notably excelling in the CAF Confederation Cup which ended with the Congolese forward securing the tournament's top goal scorer prize.

This achievement underscores the importance of acquiring a striker of similar caliber for Young Africans, alias Yanga.

A player with the ability to make a significant impact in major competitions would not only elevate the team's standing but also contribute to the squad's success in both domestic and continental competitions.

The exemplary performance shown by Mayele in the 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup serves as a compelling benchmark for the kind of striker Young Africans need.

To replicate such success, the team should prioritize securing a forward who possesses the skills and prowess to thrive in significant tournaments.

He ought to turn into a goal-getter with what it takes to ultimately ensure a formidable presence for Yanga in the competitive landscape of African football.

Tanzanian football giant, Yanga, revived the squad's TotalEnergies CAF Champions League hopes with an emphatic 3-0 home victory over 10-man Medeama SC of Ghana on December 20, 2023.

Ivorian midfielder Zouzoua broke the deadlock for the hosts after 31 minutes before second-half strikes by central defender Bakari Mwamnyeto and midfielder Mudathir Yahya sealed the win.

The results have witnessed Yanga moving to second place in Group D, having been separated from group leader Egypt's Al Ahly on goal difference heading into the final two rounds of the Group Stage.

Simba SC head coach issues stern warning to players

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha has issued a stern warning to his players, demanding that they show more commitment and dedication to the club.

The Algerian gaffer also warned that he will not tolerate either laziness or poor performances shown by his footballers.

Benchikha said that the team has talented players but some of them have been lazy in training and during matches.

"There are players who have a lot of talent, but the problem is their commitment and dedication to the team," he said.

The Algerian noted: "As a coach, I cannot tolerate this and I have told them to change their attitude."

He also said that he will not tolerate any player who underperforms, insisting: "I cannot tolerate seeing a player who is underperforming because he is hindering my plans and what is expected of us by Simba SC fans and the football

stakeholders in the country."

Benchikha made the comments following the recent suspensions of the squad's midfielders Clatous Chama and Nassor Kapama for disciplinary reasons.

Simba SC on Saturday locked horns with Mlandege FC in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final, which took place at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

The NBC Premier League squad secured a spot in the Mapinduzi Cup final following a victory over the league's other team, Singida Fountain Gate FC, in a penalty shootout of the last-four clash.

Benchikha has used the Mapinduzi Cup tournament to prepare his team for the resumption of the NBC Premier League and the Group Stage of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League.

The coach further used the tournament to integrate the new players signed during the recent transfer window.

Simba SC has signed offensive midfielder Ladack Chasambi from Mtibwa Sugar,



Simba SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha.

winger Saleh Karabaka from JKU SC of Zanzibar, and Senegalese defensive midfielder Babacar Sarr from Tunisia's US Monastir.

Benchikha said that all of his players should be on the same level, adding that they should all be committed to the team.

He also said that he does not want to hear that any player feels he is bigger than the team.

"I do not want to see a player who thinks he is bigger than the team because that will destroy the team and cause chaos," Benchikha said.

The gaffer insisted: "I want to see that every player is fulfilling his duties to achieve our goals, especially in the domestic league and continental competitions. I will not tolerate any player who goes against this."

Benchikha's comments

are a clear sign that he is not willing to tolerate any nonsense from his players. He is determined to build a winning team and he is not afraid of making tough decisions.

It will be interesting to see how the players respond to Benchikha's warning. If they do not take it seriously, they could find themselves out of the team.

Dazzling TotalEnergies CAF AFCON opener showcases Cote d'Ivoire's vibrant culture

ABIDJAN

A KALEIDOSCOPIC opening ceremony in Abidjan provided a taste of Cote d'Ivoire's rich culture as the 2023 TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations burst into life on Saturday.

The iconic Stade Olympique Alassane Ouattara throbbled with colour as dancers, acrobats and musicians delivered a high-octane celebration of Ivorian tradition.

Through carefully choreographed routines, the hosts presented their diversity to the world and pride in forging "a people and a destiny" over time.

The vibrant performances also honoured African unity, with Cote d'Ivoire welcoming the continent's 54 nations with its legendary hospitality.

Meanwhile, the country's booming infrastructure was displayed via footage of its impressive network of roads, bridges and facilities.

These multiform developments are a source of national pride as Cote d'Ivoire continues rapid economic growth.

An array of A-list African music stars then took centre stage to crank up the carnival atmosphere inside the packed 60,000-capacity venue.

Ivorian singer Jose got the party started before Congolese artist Daju had thousands jumping with his infectious hits.

The iconic sounds of Magic System had the stadium rocking as the Ivorian band teamed up with Nigeria's Yemi Alade and Egyptian singer Ramadan.

As their TotalEnergies CAF AFCON 2023 anthem played, extravagant fireworks lit up the Abidjan sky to officially launch the tournament.

It whipped expectant fans into a frenzy moments before Cote d'Ivoire's opening clash with Guinea-Bissau.

According to leading African football journalist Nuhu Adams, it was a ceremony worthy of kicking off a landmark AFCON.

"This was African culture and talent projected to the world in spectacular fashion," Adams told CAFOnline.com

"From the choreography to the music, it showcased what makes Cote d'Ivoire and Africa unique. It set the perfect tone for the football to come."

With the continent's eyes on Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire delivered a symbolic celebration of tradition and ambition at the start of a historic AFCON.

After a month of unforgettable moments on and off the pitch, one nation will emerge triumphant on February 11th.

But this dazzling opener provided an early glimpse of what makes the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations so special.

Afcon 2025 may move to avoid Club World Cup clash

ABIDJAN

THE dates for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) remain undecided amid a potential clash with the Fifa Club World Cup, according to Confederation of African Football (Caf) president Patrice Motsepe.

The 2021 finals in Cameroon and the 2023 edition of Afcon, which kicks off in Ivory Coast on Saturday, were moved to dates in January and February.

Caf had made a commitment in 2017 to return to staging the tournament mid-year to avoid disputes with European clubs over releasing players in the middle of their season.

But Fifa's expanded 32-team Club World Cup is scheduled to be held in the United States in June and July 2025, setting up a potential clash of dates with that year's Afcon which will be hosted by Morocco.

"We want the Cup of Nations to take place when it is most favourable and convenient for the tournament," said Motsepe. "We are still engaging with Fifa about the dates."

The timing of Afcon has become increasingly controversial, having been held in the first three months of the year from 1968 to 2017, but then staged mid-year in Egypt in 2019.

The 2021 finals in Cameroon were scheduled for early that year to avoid the rainy season in the country, and were then put back 12 months to 2022 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 2023 tournament was similarly shifted because of weather considerations in Ivory Coast.

Two African sides, Al Ahly of Egypt and Morocco's Wydad Casablanca, have already qualified for the expanded Club World Cup. The national sides of both countries traditionally draw players from those clubs for international duty.

2023 hosts Ivory Coast 'on right track'

Speaking in Abidjan on Friday, Motsepe also insisted he is confident this year's Afcon will not see a repeat of the kind of tragedy which marred the last tournament in Cameroon.

Eight people were killed and dozens injured in a crush and stampede at the Olembe Stadium in Yaounde prior to the last-16 match between the hosts and Comoros.

The Ivorian government has invested over \$1.5 billion in improving infrastructure in order to host the tournament for the first time since 1984.

BBC

Fofana sets hosts Ivory Coast on way to win Cup of Nations opener

ABIDJAN

SEKO Fofana's stunning early goal set hosts Ivory Coast on the way to a 2-0 win over Guinea-Bissau before a euphoric crowd as the Africa Cup of Nations kicked off on Saturday.

Saudi-based Fofana scored inside four minutes at the Ebimpe Olympic Stadium, on the northern outskirts of Ivory Coast's economic capital Abidjan.

It was a goal worthy of winning almost any game but it was followed by Jean-Philippe Krasso's second-half strike as the Elephants claimed all three points in the Group A encounter.

They were the better team, albeit against one of the tournament's minnows, as they look to make the most of home advantage to win a third AFCON crown.

"We have been waiting for this moment for a very long time. We didn't fall into any trap, we won the game, and even if not everything was perfect we are very pleased," said Fofana.

"We will keep working humbly and try to correct the little errors we made, but I thought we played well."

"We are very pleased to have given everyone who came here something to shout about, as well as everyone who watched us on television."

One source of disappointment for the hosts is that just 36,858 fans attended the game inside a 60,000-seat stadium,



Ivory Coast's midfielder #6 Seko Fofana (centre) scores his team's first goal during the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) 2024 group A football match between Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau at the Alassane Ouattara Olympic Stadium in Abidjan, on January 13, 2024. AFP

with tickets being sold for between 5,000 and 15,000 CFA francs (\$8-25).

"From what I could see the stadium looked full. We had great support," insisted Fofana.

Those fans who were there were treated to a raucous opening ceremony, a riot of colour and noise which featured a rendition of the tournament's official song by popular Ivorian group Magic System.

There were also speeches by FIFA president Gianni Infantino, African football boss Patrice Motsepe, and Ivory Coast's veteran President Alassane Ouattara, who proudly declared his country "a land of football".

They are aiming to become the first host nation to lift the trophy since Egypt beat Ivory Coast on penalties in the final in 2006.

That Elephants team featured the legendary Didier Drogba, who was also in attendance in Abidjan.

The hosts have not lost the opening match of the AFCON since Burkina Faso in 1998 and there appeared little prospect of that happening here once Fofana struck.

"Raise our game" - The game started several

minutes later than the planned 2000 GMT kick-off following the litany of speeches, but Ivory Coast wasted little time against a Guinea-Bissau side appearing at their fourth AFCON and who have still never won a match at the tournament.

Fofana received a pass from Franck Kessie before teeing himself up for a magnificent strike high into the top-right corner.

Ivorian coach Jean-Louis Gasset, the veteran Frenchman, named a team featuring five players based in Europe's big five leagues and three who play in Saudi Arabia.

However, star striker Sebastian Haller of Borussia Dortmund was absent as he recovers from injury, so the attack was led by Krasso of Red Star Belgrade.

The main goal threat in the first half came from Fofana, tireless in the tropical heat and humidity and who crashed another right-foot shot off the bar from a Kessie cut-back after 34 minutes.

Guinea-Bissau, Africa's 21st-ranked team but who defeated Nigeria in qualifying, were still in the game at 1-0 but created little and conceded again just before the hour mark.

German-born striker Krasso showcased Ivory Coast's attacking strength in depth as he controlled a ball in the box at an awkward height with his back to goal, took another touch and then volleyed low into the net to effectively end the contest.

"The essential thing was to win this match, because playing the opening game in a full stadium and with your country watching is very difficult psychologically," said Gasset, whose team play Victor Osimhen's Nigeria next.

"They have an impressive attacking armada, and their main striker is the best player in Africa, so we know we will need to raise our game, but knowing my players as I do, I think they will do that."

Nigeria were to play Equatorial Guinea at Ebimpe later yesterday ahead of the opening games in Group B between Egypt and Mozambique, and Ghana and Cape Verde.

AFP

Kevin De Bruyne is Man City's hero at Newcastle - and shows why they are title favourites

By Luke Edwards



Kevin De Bruyne reminded everyone, especially Newcastle, of his class when he came off the bench - Reuters

KEVIN De Bruyne has got a new look, an injury lay off fashion makeover, but some things never change: his ability to rescue Manchester City when they need a hero.

Make no mistake, City were in desperate trouble against Newcastle United, trailing by two goals to one when their Belgian master emerged from the bench with 21 minutes left to play.

Newcastle had been superb in the first half, tearing into City, playing with a speed on the counter attack few teams could contain. But we have written this story before about them and it is getting painfully repetitive.

With 11 players missing through injury, the Magpies simply do not have any midfielders or attacking players on the bench manager Eddie Howe can use to change the game or relieve the pressure on his defence. The starting XI begins to get tired, the forward players can no longer make runs in behind that push the opposition back. The midfield players are slower to close the opposition down. Eventually, when they are finally exhausted, they concede late goals. Last month, it happened against Paris Saint Germain in the Champions League and Chelsea in the Carabao Cup, knocking them out of both competitions. This defeat dropped them down to tenth in the table.

It created the perfect conditions for Manchester City, inspired by De Bruyne, to thrive and secure a comeback win that puts them on the shoulder of Liverpool at the top of the Premier League.

Newcastle do not have the luxury of being able to

bring on world-class players like De Bruyne but the fact they were running on fumes by the time he emerged from the bench was fatal.

De Bruyne scored City's equaliser, advancing from midway in the Newcastle half before drilling a shot into the bottom corner from 20 yards.

But it was the perfection, the artistry of the lofted pass to fellow substitute Oscar Bobb that secured the win, the ball sailing over the head of Kieran Trippier. Bobb did not have to break his stride, but he did need to beat goalkeeper Martin Dubravka, which he did with ease.

It felt cruel on Newcastle, a scene of devastation that has been repeated so many times in this infuriating season. But as their jubilant travelling fans sang, this is why Manchester City are champions. The victory puts them two points behind leaders Liverpool and with De Bruyne back and Erling Haaland still to return, they are surely favourites to become the first Premier League side to win the title four years in a row.

Whether that is good for the overall health of English football is a debate for another day. City are simply brilliant and it will take

something special from Liverpool or Arsenal to stop them.

Newcastle had started the game like an angry swarm of angry black and white wasps, buzzing around a sticky jam jar. They should have taken the lead too. There was no need for Alexander Isak to stray offside, mistiming his run by a split second before squaring for Sean Longstaff to bundle home.

The offside flag went up as soon as the ball rippled the net, but the damage was done as far as City goalkeeper Ederson was concerned. In trying to stop the disallowed goal, the Brazilian head was hit

by Longstaff and his knee was split open from the impact of his own defender Kyle Walker.

Ederson tried to play on and almost gifted the Magpies a goal, kicking the ball straight at Miguel Almiron who had surprised him with the speed of his press. Anthony Gordon squared the ball for Almiron to shoot, but Bruno got in his way and then sliced the ball wide.

Ederson was immediately replaced by Stefan Ortega. The two lengthy breaks in play took the sting out of the home side and settled City down.

From the restart, they took control of the ball, slowing the game down and then suddenly speeding it up. The passed from side to side, probing and waiting before finding the opportunity for a forward pass to slice through Newcastle's midfield. It was a Guardiola side doing what it does best and Newcastle were put under constant distress. And when Kyle Walker was left unmarked by Dan Burn, sucked into the middle of the pitch to try and look after the impish and dangerous Phil

Foden, the goal came. The cross was good but the finish from Silva was superb, taking a pass slightly behind him and flicking it home.

At that stage, the visitors looked comfortable but that changed in a flash. Fabian Schar won a tackle, finally finding Bruno in space to do some damage. The Brazil international already knew what he was going to do before the pass arrived, swinging a first time ball perfectly into the path of Isak. Walker decided to go tight to stop the shot, Isak stood him up and in one movement, shifted the ball a fraction to his right and curled it perfectly into the top corner.

It was a stunning finish and it rattled City. Walker did not know what to do when Anthony Gordon picked up the ball. The England defender stood off this time, leaving far too much space for the winger to beat him and curl another effort into the far corner.

Isak might have made it three before the break, sprinting off the shoulder of the last defender but

this time the finish did not match the build up and Ortega made the save.

Newcastle knew what was coming in the second half and City are probably the best side in Europe in this sort of situation. Crucially, they remained patient. Even when chances were made and missed, not least the one Julian Alvarez blasted over the bar.

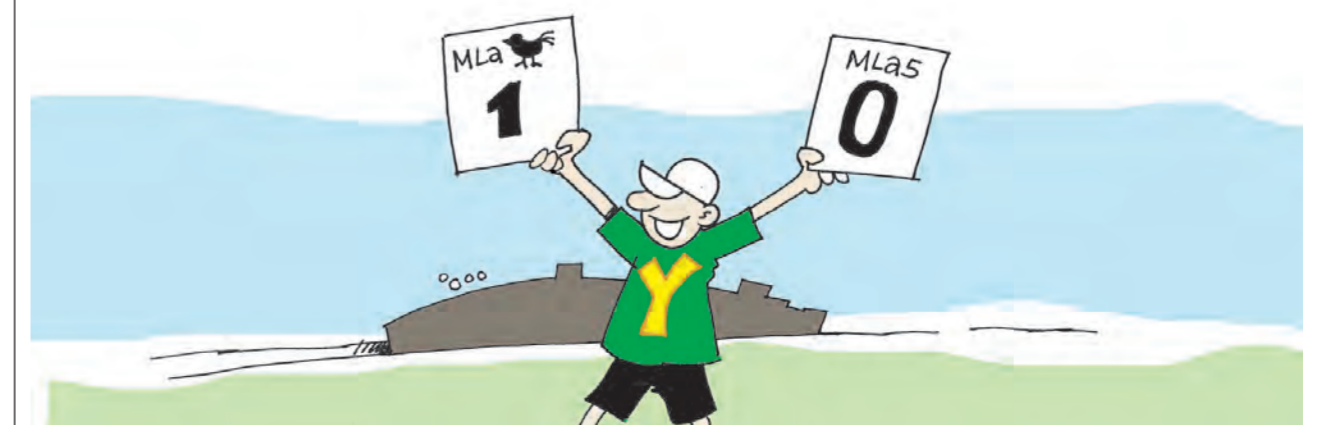
City had control but it still took a player of De Bruyne's class to score the equaliser and then create the winner in stoppage time.

The City's talisman received the ball in space. Newcastle's defence dropped off and De Bruyne accepted the invitation, strolling forward and using Fabian Schar as a barrier, to keep the goalkeeper unsuspected, he stroked a low shot from the edge of the area through the defender's legs and into the bottom corner.

Dubravka was needed to make another excellent save to deny Rodri shortly after but when De Bruyne split the defence one final time, the Slovakian could not keep out Bobb.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Fofana sets hosts Ivory Coast on way to win Cup of Nations opener

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Tanzania Football Federation's Marketing Manager, Aaron Mwinula.

TFF Marketing Manager joins other CECAFA officials to play key roles at 2023 AFCON finals

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finally kicked off in Côte d'Ivoire last Saturday.

Twenty-four teams will be competing in the premier continental tournament for national squads, including representatives from the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA), such as Tanzania.

Off the pitch, the CECAFA Zone will also have 15 officials who are part of the CAF delegation tasked with carrying out different duties when Africa's biggest football showpiece takes center stage from January 13 to February 11, 2024.

Former Yanga midfielder, Aaron Mwinula, was part of the marketing commercial team selected by AFCON. Mwinula is currently the marketing manager of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Technical Director Michael Amenga and the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) Chief Executive Officer Edgar Watson will be part of the Technical Study Group (TSG).

Ali Ahmed from Somalia, who is also the head of refereeing in CECAFA, Jean Claude (Burundi), Hussein Ali (Djibouti), and Tesfanesh Waretta Hailu (Ethiopia), are part of the Referees Committee.

Five cities will host the 52 matches as action takes place in six stadiums, including the Olympic Stadium of Ebimpe.

Felix Houphouët-Boigny Stadium, Peace Stadium, Stadium of Korhogo, Laurent Pokou Stadium, and Charles Konan Banny Stadium will also host the continental tournament.

Officials picked from the CECAFA Zone are Hadja Kayishakire (Rwanda), Leila Nankya (Uganda), Veronica Lusichi (Kenya) - Protocol, Linda Lukalo (Kenya) - Guest Management, Jane Njoki (Kenya) - Legal, Hussien Ahmed (Uganda), and Usher Komugisha (Uganda) - Communication.

Michael Amenga (Kenya), Edgar Watson (Uganda) - Technical Study Group, Aaron Mwinula (Tanzania) - Commercial, Jean Claude (Burundi), Ali Ahmed (Somalia), Hussein Ali (Djibouti), Tesfanesh Waretta Hailu (Ethiopia) - Referee Committee, and Yacoub Ali (Djibouti) - Match Commissioner complete the list.

Simba SC head coach's glimpse of progress amidst Mapinduzi Cup disappointment



Simba SC's Algerian coach, Abdelhak Benchikha.

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THIS year's Mapinduzi Cup final between Simba SC and Mlandege FC played in Zanzibar last Saturday may have left the former's supporters heartbroken.

However, beneath the surface of defeat lies a story of cautious optimism. While the loss undoubtedly stings, a closer look reveals a team under new management taking its first steps on a promising path.

Simba SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha, appointed on November 24, 2023, has breathed new life into the squad in just 11 games.

With so far two losses amidst a string of convincing victories, including a dominant display against Wydad Casablanca of Morocco in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League en-

counter at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Benchikha's impact is undeniable.

A key aspect of his strategy has been rebuilding the midfield. Congolese Fabrice Ngoma, previously overlooked, has flourished under Benchikha's keen eye, becoming a crucial element in controlling the tempo.

In one of his interviews with the media during the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup tournament, Benchikha pointed out: "Ngoma has consistently proven to be a crucial asset in my squad, and this extends beyond my tenure, wherever he has played, Ngoma has excelled."

The Algerian gaffer noted: "He's a player with a penchant for game control, yet he consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to ensuring the team's success and achieving positive results. This has proven to be advan-

teous for us at the club."

"We aspire to see a Simba SC team with numerous players possessing the ability to elevate the team and enhance its capability for success," the coach pointed out.

"This, undoubtedly, will further fortify our position in line with the goals we've set for ourselves," Benchikha noted.

The arrival of Senegalese Babacar Sarr also adds further depth and quality, creating a formidable midfield quartet alongside Ngoma, Sadio Kanoute, Abdallah Hamis, and Mzamiru Yassin.

But Benchikha's brilliance extends beyond tactical tweaks. He has expertly revived seemingly lost players like Willy Essomba Onana, Luis Miquissone, and Israel Mwenda, reminding everyone of their hidden potential.

This commitment to player rehabilitation fosters a sense of unity and hope within the

squad.

Yet, challenges remain. The lack of goals from forwards Moses Phiri and Jean Baleke presents a glaring hurdle.

The Simba SC leadership is rightfully concerned, especially with major competitions looming on the horizon.

However, one must admire Benchikha's unwavering faith in his entire squad. His decision to offer playing time to underutilized players in the final CAF Champions League match against Wydad Casablanca showcased this trust and the potential rewards it reaps.

Furthermore, Benchikha understands the crucial link between discipline and success. His instruction to the club's leadership to suspend midfielders Clatous Chama and Nassor Kapama for disciplinary reasons sent a clear message that even star players are not exempt from accountability.

This creates a culture of professionalism and focus, vital for achieving at the highest level.

The Mapinduzi Cup may not have delivered the desired trophy, but it served as a valuable testing ground for Benchikha.

He has identified strengths to build upon, unearthed hidden gems, and instilled a culture of discipline and unity.

While fans' disappointment is understandable, it should be tempered with the knowledge that this tournament was less about the trophy and more about laying the foundation for future triumphs.

Simba SC under Benchikha is evolving. The road ahead may have bumps, but the glimpses of progress witnessed in these

first 11 games suggest a team poised for greatness.

The 2024 Mapinduzi Cup may have ended in defeat, but it could very well be the first chapter in a story of redemption and glory for the pride of the Msimbazi Street club.

Simba SC, like any team, undergoes a dynamic process of change. This transformation requires patience from the devoted Simba SC fans, as they await the fruition of this evolving journey.

The technical bench plays a crucial role in this, actively addressing and rectifying any observed errors encountered during this transformative competition.

Within the realm of goalkeeping, challenges persist in the form of minor errors, necessitating additional efforts to fine-tune this critical aspect of the game.

Simultaneously, the offensive front demands attention, urging the technical team to implement measures that will reclaim Simba SC's dominance in the competitive landscape.

It is a multifaceted endeavor, and collectively addressing these facets is integral to the team's ultimate success.

In the pursuit of regaining its kingdom, Simba SC acknowledges the imperative of addressing both defensive and offensive nuances.

This acknowledgment forms the foundation for the ongoing change process, and the collaboration between fans and the technical bench remains vital in achieving the desired outcomes on the pitch.

Benchikha demands Simba SC should sign strong forwards

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

SIMBA SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha is under pressure to turn the outfit's form around and could badly do with some reinforcements in this mini-transfer window.

Benchikha strongly believes Simba SC needs to sign strong forwards to compete in the CAF Champions League.

Simba SC is two wins away from securing a CAF Champions League quarterfinal ticket but Benchikha expects Wydad AC of Morocco, sitting last with two points, to be more competitive after the January transfer window.

Simba SC has struggled for goals in crucial games and, once again, came short for Saturday's 1-0 loss to Mlandege FC in the Mapinduzi Cup final at New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar.

In an evening that has been witnessed many times this season, the outfit - nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds' - looked solid defensively but lacked the creativity needed to break down a stubborn Mlandege FC defense.

Benchikha, after admitting his concern over the limitations in the outfit's frontline, said on



Simba SC's midfielder Abdallah Hamis (R) dribbles past Mlandege FC's player when the two clubs faced each other in a 2024 Mapinduzi Cup final that took place in Zanzibar last Saturday and ended in a 1-0 victory for Mlandege FC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Saturday: "We are Simba SC. We must have strong forwards for the CAF Champions League."

Last month, Benchikha lamented about his side's profligacy in front of goal after a 1-0 loss against Wydad AC.

The Algerian coach says he was impressed with the efforts shown by his forwards.

However, he was concerned with the chances Simba failed

to put away and that must change.

The tactician noted: "I am happy with the changes of all the players. They are making a lot of effort. The defenders played a good match. I am also happy with the midfielders, they played very well. But we have problems in attack positions."

"We must concentrate. Our

forwards make a lot of effort in matches but I want them to score. We want goals, it is three matches now without scoring," the Algerian disclosed.

"Against ASEC Mimosas it was a penalty. We did not score against Galaxy and Wydad. We have to keep working hard, working on confidence," the gaffer revealed.

The former head coach of

Algerian outfit, USM Alger, regards a striker as a priority, and money is believed to have been set aside for a potential investment in a new goalscorer despite today being the transfer deadline.

Jean Baleke is Simba SC's highest goal scorer with eight league strikes, followed by Saidi Ntibazonkiza with four goals, and Moses Phiri with three.

Baleke joined Simba SC in January 2023 on a two-season loan deal from DR Congo's TP Mazembe for an undisclosed transfer fee.

He contributed thirteen goals in all competitions last season. However, despite his good scoring record under the sacked coach Roberto Oliveira, Baleke is seen as a striker who struggles to create his chances and bring others into play.

John Bocco, Willy Onana, Shaban Chilunda, and Dennis Kibu have amassed four goals between them. Simba SC is planning to release Chilunda.

With the transfer deadline today, Simba SC is racing against the clock to get any deal completed so it remains to be seen if the club will pull out a deal like it did last year with Baleke's arrival.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

